Park, Pagaduan, Cao top Pacifica's 11th Annual Art Contest. PAGE 2
Kennedy reappointed as federal magistrate judge. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

22 DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

$1

Saipan Tribune

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 241
TUESDAY DECEMBER 3, 2024
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

CNMI receives new portable echocardiography machines

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday accepted two new portable echocardiography machines funded by the Rotary international Foundation.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has received two new portable echocardiography machines that will be used at the Tinian and Rota healthcare centers thanks to the Rotary International Foundation.

See MACHINES on Page 4

Palacios, Apatang pay tribute to former House speaker Cabrera

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cabrera

The CNMI administration is honoring the legacy of service and leadership of former House speaker Eliceo Diaz Cabrera who recently passed.

Yesterday, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang issued a statement regarding the passing of the former House speaker and CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator.

"The administration of Gov.

See PALACIOS on Page 4

Legislature honors Sablan

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

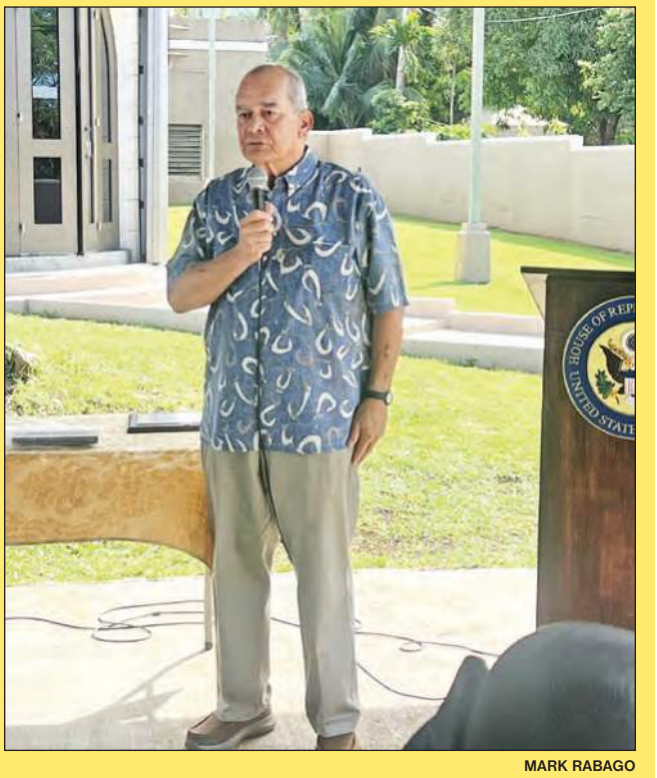
The 23rd Legislature honored Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) through a joint resolution last week during his final townhall meeting as the CNMI's delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Last week, Sablan held his final townhall at the NMI Museum where he was able to give his final address to constituents after eight terms in office.

During the townhall, members of the CNMI's 23rd Legislature took the opportunity to present a plaque in honor of Sablan's legacy in the Marianas.

Sen. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan) expressed that Sablan never failed to show his

See SABLAN on Page 4



MARK RABAGO
Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) makes his address during his final townhall meeting last week as the CNMI's delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives.

'More nurses in CNMI maintain their licenses'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
delatorreferdie@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

More nurses in the CNMI may be maintaining their licenses which could be due to factors such as an

» **NMI Board of Nursing sees an increase in nurse license renewal applications**

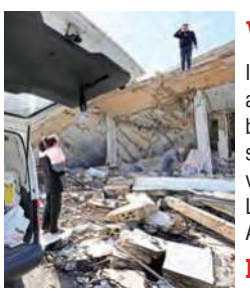
increased focus on workforce retention or changes in licensing requirements that encourage renewals, according to the NMI Board of Nursing yesterday.

The NMI BON in its

See NURSES on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Leila Staffler and artist UchanEsti Rain Ni are proud to host the 4th Annual Holiday Art Bazaar, taking place on Dec. 13 from 9am to 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center in Susupe.
PAGE 5



WORLD
Israeli jets Sunday launched an airstrike over a southern Lebanese border village, while troops shelled other border towns and villages still under Israeli control, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported.
PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE
"Moana 2" brought in a tidal wave of moviegoers over the Thanksgiving Day weekend, setting records with $221 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. That, combined with "Wicked" and "Gladiator II," made for an unprecedented weekend in cinemas and a confluence of blockbusters more like what's often found in late December.
PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Park, Pagaduan, Cao top Pacifica's 11th Annual Art Contest

Another successful year of supporting the arts for Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. with a total of 108 entries during this year's 11th Annual Pacifica Art Contest.

For the first time ever, Shu Yi Cao, a student from the Northern Marianas College, waved the PROA flag proudly after making history after bagging first place in the digital category. Her digital art piece was culturally rich in local elements that included a ukulele playing, bare footed Santa Claus timing the sun as it sets, a smooth sailing PROA, a giant coconut crab (or ayuyu in Chamorro) climbing up a coconut tree with branches that kingfishers and other local bird species used as a rest spot, and the beautiful hibiscus tropical flora—all a digital rendition that sits along the shores of our Pacific waters.

The traditional category one winner is Saipan International School student Stella Park whose artwork boasted an explosion of bright neon colors blended with natural tones and a unique twist and interpretation of the holiday season. The piece also painted a Santa Claus snugged in a giant Christmas stocking and another catching waves on a surfboard with a sling bag of toys.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Artwork by Eliane Pagaduan from Grace Christian Academy, second category traditional winner.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Artwork by Stella Park from Saipan International School, first category traditional winner.

The traditional category two winner is Grace Christian Academy student Eliane Pagaduan who showcased the CNMI's iconic Bird Island through the lens of a digital camera held by one of Santa's reindeers. The masterpiece also captured an islander Santa Claus sharing the hafa adai and tirow shaka hand sign and sporting island wear and slippers aka zoris.

"There was never a PAC event that did not excite and amaze us—every one of them left us in awe. The creativity, originality, and stories told through art by our talented local artists deserve recognition and a standing ovation. They continue to push the envelope and deliver the finest pieces imaginable. There is so much potential for artistic greatness in the CNMI," said Pacifica Insurance president and CEO Shirley Sablan "We look forward to having more masterpieces added to our online art gallery, the PAC Gallery."

Sablan also expressed her gratitude to others who are involved in the success of the art contest.

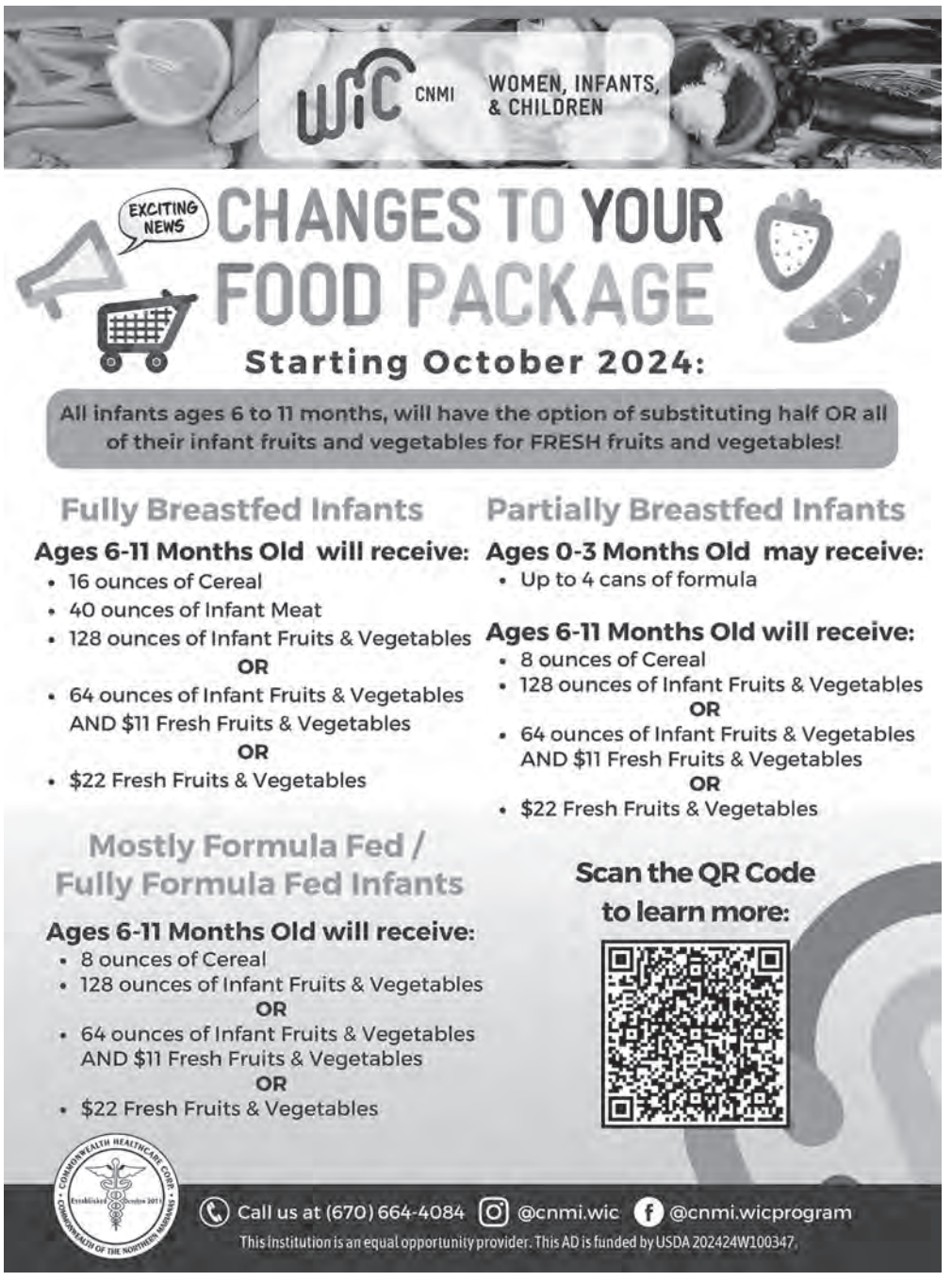
"Each successful run of PAC would not have been possible without the cooperation and assistance of school administrators, teachers, and contest judges, and we are forever grateful for their partnership.

The PAC Gallery (www.pacificains.com/artcontest) is an online digital archive that was created last year to celebrate PAC's 10th year anniversary. It houses top placing artworks that date back to 2014 and will periodically feature past and present PAC artists, judges, and educators in the field of art, and will remain a

See CONTEST on Page 3

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Artwork by Shu Yi Cao of Northern Marianas College, third category digital winner.


WIC CNMI WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN
EXCITING NEWS
CHANGES TO YOUR FOOD PACKAGE
Starting October 2024:
All infants ages 6 to 11 months, will have the option of substituting half OR all of their infant fruits and vegetables for FRESH fruits and vegetables!
Fully Breastfed Infants
Ages 6-11 Months Old will receive:
• 16 ounces of Cereal
• 40 ounces of Infant Meat
• 128 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• 64 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables AND $11 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• $22 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
Partially Breastfed Infants
Ages 0-3 Months Old may receive:
• Up to 4 cans of formula
Ages 6-11 Months Old will receive:
• 8 ounces of Cereal
• 128 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• 64 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables AND $11 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• $22 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
Mostly Formula Fed / Fully Formula Fed Infants
Ages 6-11 Months Old will receive:
• 8 ounces of Cereal
• 128 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• 64 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables AND $11 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• $22 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
Scan the QR Code to learn more:
Call us at (670) 664-4084 @cnmi.wic @cnmi.wicprogram
This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This AD is funded by USDA 202424W100347.

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.
PO Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. Nos.: (670) 235-7273/4 - Fax: (670) 235-7275

Request for Proposal

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is soliciting proposals for Audit of financial and compliance audit for fiscal year ending **September 30, 2024.** NMPASI is designated, federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in the CNMI. NMPASI uses a variety of individual and systems advocacy approaches to protect people's rights, including legal and administrative remedies, legislative, policy change and trainings. Proposals for the financial and compliance audit shall be submitted to NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **December 20, 2024.** The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

1. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards;
2. OMB Circular A-133; and
3. Compliance with the general Requirements Applicable to Federal Financial Assistance Program.

Award will be based on specific factor such as prior experience, technical competence, ability to meet the deadline and price in this order. The contract for this audit will be awarded no later than January 10, 2025, and a final audit report shall be completed by March 30, 2025. A list of specific audit requirements and Agency's profile are available at NMPASI office, Marianas Business Plaza, 5th floor, Room 505. Any questions regarding this matter can be addressed to Mr. Gregory Borja, Executive Director at (670) 235-7273/4 (voice) or email at gborja@nmpasi.org.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Stella Park with her classmates and Saipan International School headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder, Pacifica staff Tyler Yoshimoto, and Dionne Camacho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shu Yi Cao with the staff of Pacifica Insurance.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eliane Pagaduan with her classmates, teacher, Pacifica Co-Op Intern, Shelina Beltran and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. marketing coordinatior Dionne Camacho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Traditional first category winner of the 11th Annual Pacifica Art Contest Stella Park of Saipan International School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Traditional Second Category winner, Eliane Pagaduan, Grace Christian Academy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Third category digital winner Shu Yi Cao of Northern Marianas College.

CONTEST

From page 2

permanent home for PAC. Although PIUI continues to add content to the gallery it is now live and accessible.

PIUI will be featuring art pieces randomly on the company's Instagram and Facebook social media pages throughout the holiday season.

This year's art contest judges were J.C. Tenorio Ent., Inc. store manager J.J. Tenorio, TurnKey Solutions marketing manager Liana Cotero, and social media influencer and local music rapper Antonette Castro better known as Netty Cee.

"This Christmas, we're reminded that no matter what happens, we can always feel safe and secure. All of the students' artwork show the joy and peace of the season, and the idea that we can truly be rest assured knowing we are taken care of, together. It was a pleasure to see so much talent from the youth of the CNMI, and all of their creativity truly brightens the season!" said Tenorio

"I was truly honored to be a judge for this year's Pacific Art Contest. It was incredibly inspiring to see the creativity and passion put into each piece. The effort and dedication of the artists shone through, from vibrant acrylic paintings and delicate watercolors to innovative digital works. Each piece had a unique message and story that resonated in its own way, showcasing a beautiful spectrum of styles and perspectives. I encourage everyone to experience the outstanding work of this year's participants and past contests at https://info.pacificains.com/artcontest/," said Cotero

"At first, I was feeling very overwhelmed because there was just so much art to judge. However, that feeling went away when I started really looking and trying to understand the art. There were lots of amazing submissions! Kudos to all who participated! Please know that your work brought so much joy and smiles! Thank you for conveying the beauty of our islands through your work! You make the Marianas SO proud!" said Cee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Art Contest judge J.J. Tenorio, J.C. Tenorio Ent., Inc. store manager.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Art contest judge Antonette Castro better known as Netty Cee, social media influencer, and local music rapper.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Art Contest judge Liana Cortero, marketing manager for TurnKey Solutions.

CNMI based schools with participating artists included Oleai Elementary School, Agape Christian School, Grace Christian Academy, San Vicente Elementary School, Saipan International School, Mount Carmel School, Saipan Community School, Hopwood Middle School, Marianas High School, Dandan Middle School, Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Brilliant Star School

PIUI kept its original PAC theme "Rest Assured, it's Christmas" that was carefully crafted to kick-off the holiday season.

The same three PAC categories were maintained for this year's art contest: traditional category 1 for ages 6-11, traditional category 2 for ages 12-17, and the digital category which was open to all ages.

Acceptable mediums for the traditional categories were pen, paint, pencil, charcoal, oil pastel, crayons, and marker.

The digital category was designed for photographers, graphic artists, and videographers for still photos, max 3-second videos, and two-dimensional art image files and pdf formatted entries.

Winners received cash and other prizes.

Artworks will be on display at the PIUI second floor office located at the Joeten Building in Susupe until Jan. 9, 2024. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the exhibit during normal business hours, Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm, except holidays.

Winning artworks can be found on a variety of marketing materials and will also be shared on print publications and social media.

The staff and management of PIUI would like to wish the people of the Marianas good tidings this holiday season and a joyful Christmas and New Year ahead. ***(PR)***

Name: Roman A. Reyes and Remedio S. Reyes
Address: P.O. Box 500915
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 785-8254
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Adoption of:	]	FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0467
A.F.S.R. Minor Child(ren)	]	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:.	]	
Roman A. Reyes and Remedio S. Reyes Petitioner(s)	]	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on December 23, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 12th day of November, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/_____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-25-002

KAGMAN WATER TANK REPLACEMENT AND BOOSTER PUMP STATION UPGRADE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the Kagman Water Tank Replacement and Booster Pump Station Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of demolition of the existing water tank, booster pumps, yard piping, and all other appurtenances; construction of a new 70,000-gallon cast-in-place circular concrete water tank; removal of the temporary modular tank; construction of new generator building; installation of new generator equipment, flow meter stations, triplex pitless booster pump system, telemetry and controls; reconnection of existing waterlines; electrical works; site improvements; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the project plans and specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the US Public Law 117-2 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **four hundred twenty (420) calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **December 5, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-25-002, Kagman Water Tank Replacement and Booster Pump Station Upgrade"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 27, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 12, 2024** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Engineer, Water & Wastewater – via email at alley.reyes@cucgov-.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technichian Senior – via email at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Kennedy reappointed as federal magistrate judge

Heather L. Kennedy has been reappointed as part-time U.S. magistrate judge in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Kennedy

She has held this appointment since 2013 and is the court's first magistrate judge. Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona reappointed Kennedy to a new four-year term commencing June 11, 2025, after an evaluation process including public comments and review by a Merit Selection Panel.

Kennedy also serves as clerk of court, responsible for financial administration, court operations, and case management.

Federal magistrate judges are authorized to perform a range of judicial functions including issuing arrest and search warrants and presiding over preliminary criminal proceedings such as initial appearances and detention hearings. For civil cases, magistrate judges handle preliminary matters, including discovery and settlement conferences, as well as try and dispose of cases with consent of the parties.

Kennedy, an attorney with more than 25 years' experience, is a J.D. graduate of Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri. She received a B.A. degree from Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina. Prior to her service at the federal court, she served agencies of the CNMI government, was a litigation associate in St. Louis, Missouri, and an assistant public defender in Charlotte, North Carolina. She was born in New York and raised in Connecticut. ***(PR)***

DPS: 76-year-old man died of natural causes

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In the case of a body found at the Zen Apartments in Gualo Rai, police shared to media yesterday that the cause of death has been classified as due to natural causes.

Manacop

Department of Public Safety assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon T. Manacop informed *Saipan Tribune* that the death of the 76-year-old man had been deemed as a natural death. According to initial reports the man had been living alone at the apartment and had been suffering from sickness.

This ruling had come after investigation was launched into the discovery of a decomposing body at the apartment complex early Thursday, Nov. 28. Manacop had shared that early Thanksgiving morning police were notified by apartment staff that a strong distinct smell was coming from one of the apartment's rooms. Upon arrival police discovered it to be a 76-year-old Caucasian male.

Manacop said that they have since been able to identify the body and were now just reaching out to family and peers and awaiting a response.

Over the past six months, three bodies were found in various stages of decomposition, all males, and all have been deemed as natural deaths.

SABLAN

From page 1

dedication to the people of the CNMI and it was evident in the work he has done in U.S. Congress.

"Kilili comes from a pedigree of Kililis deeply rooted in integrity, accomplishments, and public service. Beginning with his grandfather, the great Gregorio Sablan, whose namesake (our U.S. delegate) proudly bears today. Kilili, your work undeniably has been a beacon of integrity and dedication to our community in the House of U.S. Congress. May the road you paved in Washington inspire those who follow to lead with our people in their minds and in their heart. It is in this spirit that we, of the 23rd Legislature, present this simple token and testament to your invaluable service to our people and our Marianas," she said.

Sablan, for his part, accepted the honor with much gratitude and in his address to members of the community, he gave thanks for the faith they put in him for the past 16 years.

In his address to the community, Sablan shared some of his accomplishments for the CNMI through his consecutive eight terms.

"I was first elected with 27% of the votes in 2008. In addition to having established the very first Marianas office in the U.S. House of Representatives, I did so knowing that most voters wanted someone else to represent them. Because we never had representation in Congress, we never knew what that position could accomplish. There was one obvious and immediate problem, making the transition to federal control of immigration as least difficult as possible. Voters seemed relatively satisfied with re-electing me. Immigration aside, I set two goals for myself in my time in office; make sure the Commonwealth was included in many programs where we were told 'no' and bring respect to the Marianas through my conduct in office. The Commonwealth is said to be included in more programs now than when I was first elected from $60 million earmarked for projects in the Marianas, to making sure the Marianas was cared for with billions of dollars after typhoons struck and the pandemic killed our economy," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PALACIOS

From page 1

Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to the family of the late honorable Eliceo Diaz Cabrera, on his untimely passing. A former House speaker and administrator of the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Cabrera was a distinguished leader and public servant whose unwavering commitment to the CNMI and its people has left an indelible mark," said the statement.

Former speaker Cabrera's tenure as the speaker of the 17th CNMI House of Representatives was marked by his esteemed leadership, strategic vision and personal mission of fostering unity and progress across the islands through education and economic legislation, Palacios and Apatang said.

Meanwhile, throughout seven years of service as BECQ administrator, Cabrera displayed dedication toward the protection and preservation of the CNMI's environment and the health and well-being of its community, they added.

"Speaker Cabrera was more than a leader; he was a visionary who cared deeply for the land and the people of the CNMI," said the CNMI administration.

The CNMI administration, on behalf of the CNMI, extends its heartfelt condolences to Cabrera's family, friends, and all those whose lives he touched.

"As we mourn his loss, we also celebrate the immense contributions he made to our community and commit to honoring his memory through continued progress and stewardship. We extend our special condolences to his wife, Victoria, and his children. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they navigate these challenging times," said the statement.

House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) also joined the entire CNMI in mourning the loss of Cabrera.

"I would like to extend my prayers and condolences to his wife, children, and their families. I have had the honor and privilege to serve with him in the 17th Legislature. He took over as speaker after the late governor Froilan Tenorio stepped down. He is a good man who served the CNMI well. He will be greatly missed."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MACHINES

From page 1

Yesterday, CHCC accepted two new portable echocardiography machines funded by the Rotary International Foundation on behalf of the Tinian and Rota healthcare centers. The donation was made possible through a collaborative effort between the Rotary Club of Tokyo-West, Rotary Club of Saipan, and Dr. Peter Gregor.

Saipan Tribune learned each machine costs upwards of $50,000 and two were purchased specifically to help the Rota and Tinian communities.

Halina Palacios, CHC chief operating officer, expressed her gratitude for the collaborative effort that made the donation possible.

"On behalf of CHCC, and especially the NMI communities, I want to extend my gratitude. Thank you for thinking of us and thinking of becoming a partner in our goals for sustainable care and a healthier community," she said.

Making the donation even more special, CHCC is the first recipient of a grant that was a result of the first collaborative effort between the Rotary clubs of Saipan and Tokyo-West.

"This is something very special to us and we are thankful that CHCC can take part by being the receiving hands for such a momentous occasion," she said.

Gregor, the man who came up with the idea for portable echocardiography machines for the outer islands of the CNMI, said the donation is a tremendously valuable gift.

"Echocardiography is an ultrasound technique of looking at the heart to identify heart attacks valve problems, inherited defects, [basically] every cardiology consultation has an echocardiogram inherent in it. We have two of these state-of-the-art machines. Currently, the patients come to the machine. What's now going to happen is that the machine will go to the people of the outer islands," he said.

Currently, every time a patient from Tinian or Rota needs an echocardiogram, they must fly to Saipan and it's expensive.

However, now, with the machines and a technician that will fly to Tinian and Rota occasionally to do 10 echocardiograms each trip, the cost is cut by 90%.

"By bringing the machine and technician to the patients on these islands, there will be tremendous savings in time and convenience for these people," he said.

Gregor also explained how the funding came to be.

"Rotary International Foundation grants start with an idea, then a field trip. Rotary Club of Tokyo-West Mikiya Yajima visited Saipan, Rota, and Tinian to meet with government officials and healthcare officials to assess the need. There is a cooperative organization, in this case CHC. Rotarian Yajima reported back to the president of the Rotary Club of Tokyo-West and the Rotarians of the Tokyo-West helped develop an application for a grant to the Rotary International Foundation. So, from April, to when we received the funding in October, this has been a remarkably fast global grant process," he said.

NURSES

From page 1

Fiscal Year 2024 Citizen Centric Report submitted to the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor, disclosed that during the transition period, there was a noticeable decline in initial applications for the National Council Licensure Examination or NCLEX.

However, BON said, there was an increase in license renewal applications.

During a meeting with representatives from various agencies in the Philippines, BON staff provided an overview and introductory training on the Optimal Regulatory Board System or ORBS.

In addition to the training, BON members engaged in discussions regarding the ongoing transition to the new system (ORBS), as well as various regulatory updates and changes to processes.

BON said the discontinuation of wallet cards and physical certificates led to increased inquiries or requests for alternative ways to verify their professional status.

BON collected $360,780 from application fees, $228,061 from renewals/reinstatements, and $52,425 from others (license, verification, etc.), or for a total of $641,266 in revenue resources in FY 2024.

In that fiscal year, BON issued 1,966 licenses—12 Advance Practice Registered Nursing, 1,912 Registered Nurses, five Licensed Practical Nurses, 33 Certified Nursing Assistants, two Graduate Nurses, and two Hemodialysis Technicians.

BON's budget for FY 2024 was derived from the application fees and renewals/reinstatements. BON's expenditures comprised of $247,444 in salaries and benefits, $97,767 in operational expenses, $136,309 from travels, $90 in board compensation, $16,105 in office rent, $7,500 in donation, or for total expenditures of $500,216.

Expenditures involve acquiring new hardware and software tools necessary for the digitization of paper files and hiring temporary data clerks to facilitate the successful completion of this digitization project.

Majority of the BON members and staff have already completed certification and hold investigator badges.

Some members have successfully completed the first and second tier of investigative training in Austin, Texas, further enhancing the board's capacity to effectively carry out its regulatory responsibilities.

Regarding its future outlook, BON is updating its administrative rules and regulations to ensure that healthcare practitioners continue to provide safe, competent care.

BON believes that addressing these changes is crucial, given the ever-evolving nature of healthcare, including advancements in technology, medical practices, and patient care standards.

BON regulates the practice of nursing in the CNMI. Its purpose is to provide for the regulation of the practice of nursing affecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the CNMI by regulating the practice of nursing, establishing standards for educational programs preparing students for nursing practice, and prescribing penalties for violations of the provisions of the Nurse Practice Act.

Holiday Art Bazaar set for Dec. 13 at the Multi-Purpose Center

Leila Staffler and artist UchanEsti Rain Ni are proud to host the 4th Annual Holiday Art Bazaar, taking place on Dec. 13 from 9am to 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center in Susupe.

This vibrant event will feature over 20 local artists and creators, offering unique gifts, handmade crafts, and artwork that celebrate the spirit of the season and the beauty of the Northern Mariana Islands. This event wouldn't be possible without the support and sponsorship from Precinct 2 Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan).

The first Holiday Art Bazaars were hosted by the Brilliant Star Montessori school. Staffler and Ni took over after the pandemic and have continued the tradition for the last four years. The Holiday Art Bazaar has become a beloved community tradition, bringing together artists, creators, and residents to shop, connect, and celebrate creativity during the holiday season. Shoppers can look forward to an extraordinary selection of handcrafted items, including jewelry, home decor, ornaments, cultural designs, and more.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 4th Annual Holiday Art Bazaar will take place on Dec. 13 from 9am to 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Leila Staffler takes a selfie during the 3rd Annual Holiday Art Bazaar last year.

This year's talented artists and vendors include:

■ Banidosu Shells: Local arts and crafts carved from seashells.

■ Designer Wreath & Co.: Stunning wreaths for holiday and home decor.

■ UchanEsti: Handmade crochet creations.

■ CREATIONS Jewelry & Keepsakes: Custom jewelry and memorable gifts.

■ Monika's Treasures: Hand-carved wooden ornaments, decor, and unique Saipan-made gifts.

■ Jeanne Rayphand: Paintings and books.

■ Nai's Creations: Hand-beaded necklaces, bracelets, and shell jewelry inspired by the Northern Islands.

■ Marianas Homeland: T-shirts and accessories celebrating CNMI pride.

■ Cherrymoon Co.: Handcrafted local goods.

■ Isla Krafty Corner: Beaded pens, keychains, tumblers, and paper crafts.

■ FJ Photography: Beautiful photo prints.

■ Bibi's Crafts: Crocheted goodies for all occasions.

■ Kreative Giftery: Laser keepsakes, accessories, and small gifts.

■ Merias Crochet: Floral-inspired handmade crochet creations reflecting CNMI's natural charm.

■ Weavings: Jewelry, baskets, mats, hats, and more.

■ Made by Hand: Home and holiday-themed crochet and paper items, from kitchen potholders to Christmas ornaments.

■ madebyalmay: Handmade jewelry and accessories.

■ Islandry670 Handmade: Beautifully crafted handmade jewelry.

■ AOFIA'S Cultural Designs: Unique cultural art and gifts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nai's Creations was one of the booths during last year's 3rd Annual Holiday Art Bazaar.

■ Veronica Arriola's Pottery: Stunning pottery creations.

■ Toki Mojica's: Marshalls Islands shell jewelry

■ Saipan Sands: Ornaments, necklaces, earrings, and keychains.

■ Hafa Adai Everyone: Handmade candles, T-shirts, reusable bags, local oils, and more.

■ Bishu Marianas — Your favorite specialty snacks, savory asiga gummies and other tasty items

■ Pika Tinian — Hot pepper from the source

■ ChikuChiku- Handmade hair clips and styling

■ Handmade by Leila- Paintings and jam

This one-day event offers the perfect opportunity to shop for unique gifts, support local artists, and immerse yourself in the creativity and culture of the CNMI. Don't miss this special celebration of art and community!

For more information, contact Staffler at leila.staffler@gmail.com.

"Come and find something special this holiday season while supporting our talented local artists and vendors. We can't wait to see you there!" she said. ***(PR)***

3 UOG students receive Camacho Foundation Scholarships

The Felix M. and Governor Carlos G. Camacho Scholarship Foundation has awarded $2,000 scholarships to three outstanding undergraduate students from the University of Guam for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Freshman Mia Marchessault, sophomore Yoonji Seo, and junior Brian Teodosio were recognized at a special awards ceremony on Nov. 9 for their academic achievements and commitment to their studies. Marchessault and Teodosio are pursuing degrees in business administration, while Seo is majoring in accounting.

The scholarships reflect the Camacho Foundation's mission to support aspiring business leaders by providing financial assistance to students pursuing degrees in business, accounting, marketing, and related fields. Since its establishment in 1985, the foundation has empowered over 40 students from UOG, Guam Community College, and other institutions to achieve their academic and professional goals.

"The Felix M. and Governor Carlos G. Camacho Scholarship Foundation is deeply committed to empowering Guam's students to reach their potential," said Carlos P. Camacho, Community Relations manager, PFC Shared Services. "By investing in their education, we're not just supporting individual success but also strengthening the future of our island's economy and community. We are honored to support these exceptional students as they take the next steps toward becoming the business leaders of tomorrow."

UOG

Three University of Guam students were recently awarded $2,000 scholarships from the Felix M. and Governor Carlos G. Camacho Scholarship Foundation. From left, Mark Duarte, UOG director of Financial Aid; Dr. Gena Rojas, UOG interim dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success; Yoonji Seo, scholarship recipient; Mia Marchessault, scholarship recipient; Anthony Camacho, the Foundation's chairman of the board; Carlos P. Camacho, Community Relations manager, PFC Shared Services; and Brian Teodosio, scholarship recipient.

Three scholarships are awarded annually to University of Guam students who meet the foundation's criteria, which include full-time enrollment, maintaining a minimum GPA of 2.5, and being in good standing with the university. Gena Rojas, interim dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success at UOG, commended the recipients: "These scholarships underscore the value of investing in our students and their bright futures. We are grateful to the Camacho Foundation for continuing to champion the aspirations of Guam's next generation of business leaders."

The University of Guam congratulates Marchessault, Seo, and Teodosio on their well-deserved recognition and expresses its gratitude to the Felix M. and Governor Carlos G. Camacho Scholarship Foundation for its ongoing support of higher education in Guam. ***(PR)***

Opinion

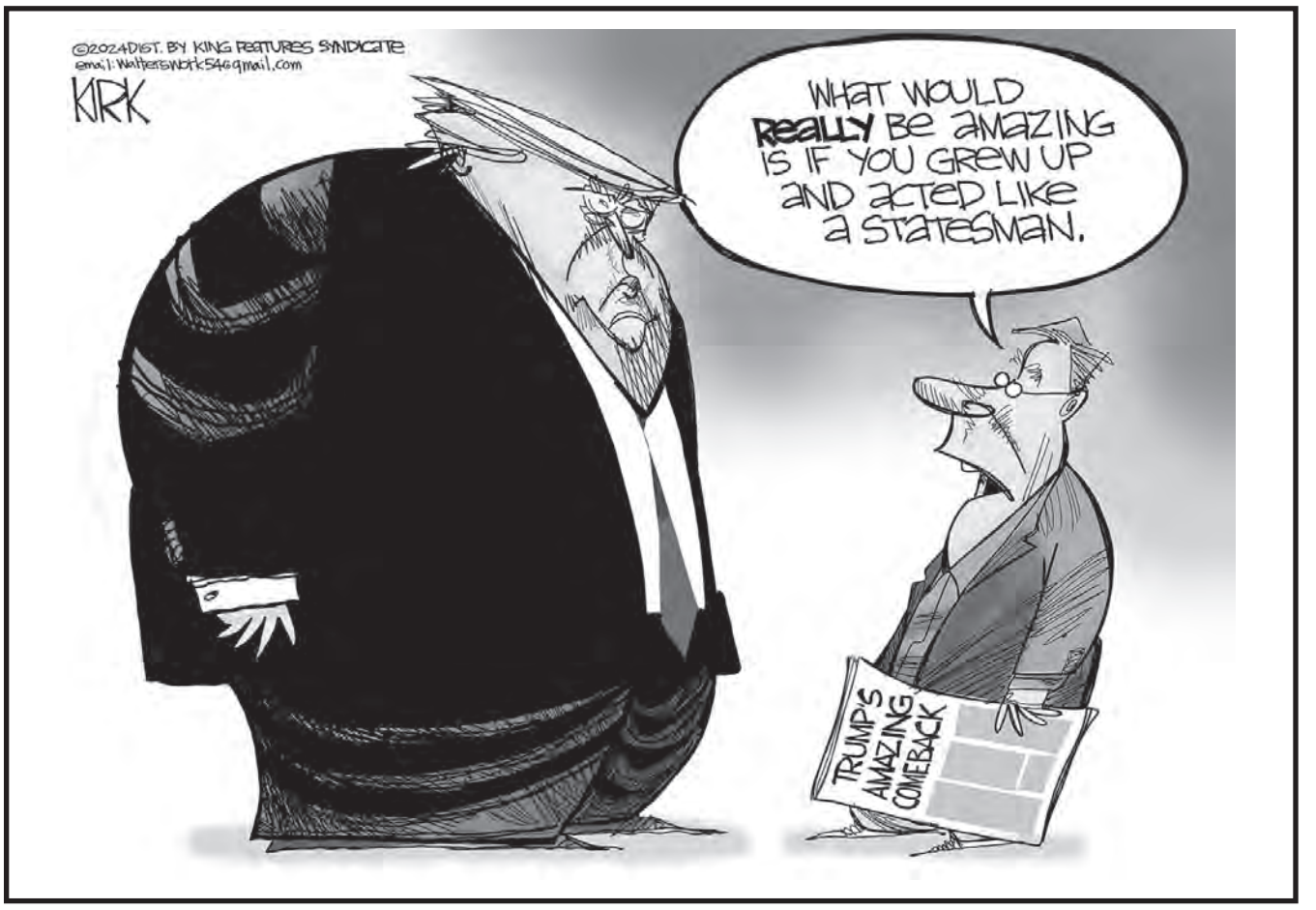
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 241

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


©2024DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
email: WaltersWork546@gmail.com
KIRK
WHAT WOULD REALLY BE AMAZING IS IF YOU GREW UP AND ACTED LIKE A STATESMAN.
TRUMP'S AMAZING COMEBACK

EDITORIAL

The expensive lessons of the failed Harris campaign

Money can't buy happiness or a presidential election. Democratic donors just learned that the hard way.

After a candidate loses a high-profile, competitive race, the blame game begins. There are many places to point the finger when assessing Vice President Kamala Harris' run.

She entered the race late and only after President Joe Biden had a career-ending debate implosion. She didn't run a primary gauntlet, which meant voters didn't know her very well. Having to endure even a token primary may have helped her improve her interview skills. She struggled to separate herself from the failed policies of the Biden/Harris administration. She took a number of radical positions when running for president in 2019. The Trump campaign effectively used her own words to show voters that she was a radical leftist.

But one common excuse for political failure, a lack of funding, doesn't apply. Harris spent an astonishing $1.5 billion during her 15-week campaign. That works out to around $100 million a week. But even that understates her financial resources. When combined with Biden's fundraising, the two Democratic campaigns had more than $2.1 billion according to The New York Times. The Times reported the Trump campaign and Republican Party raised $1.2 billion.

Money is certainly an important factor in political races. But the election results show its limits.

"There is not a single expenditure in a different spot that would have changed the outcome of the race," Bakari Sellers, a close ally of Harris, told the Times. Instead, "we had so much money it was hard to get it out the door."

Perhaps this explains why the Harris campaign spent millions on celebrity performances and social media influencers. It even paid $900,000 to advertise on the Las Vegas Sphere.

All this is especially ironic given the progressive battle to limit free speech rights by restricting political expenditures. The far-left Brennan Center for Justice says it's committed to a "long-term push to overturn Citizens United," in which the Supreme Court affirmed that arbitrary limits on political spending ran afoul of the Bill of Rights. During oral arguments, the government admitted that the law in question would potentially allow federal regulators to ban books. Ouch.

Despite the massive fundraising numbers, Axios reported recently that the Harris campaign is likely to conclude with "millions of dollars in debt." There's an old adage about politicians not being responsible with other people's money. That's certainly true when it comes to taxpayer dollars. In Harris' case, it applied to her donors as well.

They may have been costly, but the Harris campaign has provided the American public with valuable lessons.

©2024 Las Vegas Review-Journal

Memories of her Holocaust survivor father guided Amy Gutmann's tenure as ambassador to Germany

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the The Philadelphia Inquirer.

The last thing former University of Pennsylvania president Amy Gutmann ever imagined was becoming U.S. ambassador to Germany, the country from which her Orthodox Jewish father barely escaped with his life.

Born in the tiny town of Feuchtwangen in Franconia, 23-year-old Kurt Gutmann realized shortly after Adolf Hitler came to power that he had to flee his homeland once he saw his formerly friendly Christian landlord give the Nazi salute. Gutmann made it to India, started a metal factory, and managed to rescue his parents and all four siblings—two of whom had already been sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp.

"My dad died when I was 16 and I always asked how I could live up to my father," Gutmann told me recently. We met in her new office at Penn's Annenberg School for Communication, to which she returned this summer after more than two years in Berlin.

"So when I was asked to be ambassador to Germany," she recalled, "I said to myself, 'I have to do it,' even though I had never planned for this. Yet in some sense I had prepared because my whole scholarship has been about defending democracy and not letting tyrants take over."

As she waited to present her credentials to German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Feb. 17, 2022, she thought, "What would my father have thought to see me sitting in the presidential palace?" Then Steinmeier told her, "how meaningful it was to him that my father's daughter was the new ambassador. It took all my strength not to cry."

What Gutmann could never have imagined when she accepted the position was that one week after meeting Steinmeier she would be enmeshed in the greatest challenge to Western democracy since World War II: Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Or that she would be involved in the biggest shift in relations between Germany and the U.S. since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

From the moment she arrived in Berlin, she was at the center of this drama, which has reached a climax with the reelection of Donald Trump who wants to cut aid to Ukraine. Thoughts of her father ran through her mind every day of her ambassadorship. They color her views of how to save Western democracy and the U.S. European alliance today.

Four days before Russian President Vladimir Putin sent his troops into Ukraine, Gutmann was being driven down the Autobahn at more than 110 mph to meet Vice President Kamala Harris, along with top German and European officials at the high-level Munich Security Conference. She was there to help deliver declassified U.S. intelligence that an invasion was imminent. One senior German official told her: "How can you believe Putin would be so irrational as to invade?" She replied, "How can you not believe that someone with absolute power would be tempted?"

"We thought that unless we could get the Europeans with us," Gutmann explained, "Putin would decimate Ukraine. There was no reason to believe if we went it alone, we could enable them to resist."

Germany delivered. On Feb. 27, only three days after the start of the war, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz made a historic speech stating that the Russian invasion was a turning point—a Zeitenwende—in European history and German foreign policy. For decades, Germany had relied on increased economic ties with Moscow to preserve peace with Russia, notably with the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline deal. The invasion was a wake-up call for Berlin.

Scholz, whose Social Democratic Party was historically pacifist, recognized that Germany could no longer assume war had been banished from Europe, or that it could rely mainly on the U.S. defense umbrella. The chancellor announced an end to the Nord Stream 2 contract, and a plan to modernize the German military and spend over $100 billion to do it, along with a commitment (now fulfilled) to meet the NATO target of 2% of GDP for defense spending.

"It was truly a historic turning point," Gutmann said. After a rocky start—when Berlin offered only to send 5,000 helmets to Ukraine—Germany has become the second-largest contributor of military aid to Kyiv, the largest contributor of humanitarian aid, and host to one million Ukrainian refugees.

"Germany went from being one of our biggest problems vis a vis Putin to lock step together with the United States," she said. "I saw a huge shift in thinking from Russia as benign to Russia as an existential threat to Germany."

During her tenure, Moscow upped its criminal operations inside Europe, including in Germany. From assassinations on Rus-

See MEMORIES on Page 7

Musk hopes to make budget cutting cool

If Donald Trump doesn't kill Elon Musk before Musk offs Vivek Ramaswamy, together the three best bros have a chance to achieve something every administration promises, but none has delivered: Rid the federal budget of waste, fraud and inefficiency.

By NOLAN FINLEY
The Detroit News

Musk is already using his social media platform, X, to highlight examples of waste and bloat. Wednesday, he targeted the legion of "climate advisors" who earn six figure salaries and are deployed throughout the bureaucracy. Included on the list is the niece of former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Keeping waste and the deficit constantly in front of taxpayers through social media campaigns and internet memes is designed to create a movement in support of spending cuts and minimize the political impact on those who ultimately will have to vote to put the reductions in place.

It's a brilliant strategy that affirms the wisdom of bringing experts from outside or government to do the work the bureaucrats have proven incapable of doing.

It comes with a risk. Spending advocates are already trying to undercut Musk's credibility because his SpaceX and other enterprises benefit from government grants.

The bigger challenge, though, will be keeping the team together. At the moment, there's no one closer to Trump than Musk. He has been job-shadowing the president-elect since before the election and is even showing up in family photos. If politics hold true to form, that will stir jealousies and make Musk a target of those he is displacing.

There's also the question of how long two massive egos such as Musk and Ramaswamy can share the spotlight, particularly considering Ramaswamy is the most irritating person in politics.

But if Trump can hold the band together, this could be the best and last shot the nation has for heading off a debt-driven economic catastrophe.

President-elect Trump tasked Musk, the X and Tesla chairman and richest man in the world, and Ramaswamy, a bio-tech billionaire and former presidential candidate, to head the new Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE.

It's not clear whether DOGE will operate inside or outside of government—only Congress can approve a new government department.

Keeping it on the outside in an advisory and advocacy role would protect it from getting sucked into the bureaucratic quicksand and avoid the irony of creating another federal agency in the name of shrinking the size of the government.

Finding squandered dollars will be the easy part. The Pentagon, where much of the spending abuse is housed, has an inspector general who regularly issues reports on $34 screws and $640 toilet seats. And the General Accounting Office has pinpointed $250 billion in taxpayer dollars across the government lost to waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement annually.

A truism of the federal budget is that once it goes up, it never comes down. So, the massive deficit outlays for COVID-19 relief have remained in the budget even though the emergency has subsided.

A federal budget that totaled $4.4 trillion in 2019 now stands at $6.5 trillion, and the deficit has doubled to $1.8 trillion from $984 billion.

Every dollar of federal spending has its own constituency. Even the slightest trims are deemed "draconian" and raise dire alarms about grannies being rolled off cliffs and children left to misery.

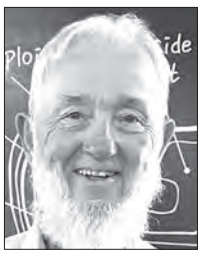
Countering the spending lobby will take every bit of Musk's marketing genius and Ramaswamy's intense focus.

The pair are talking about "gamification," a technique long deployed by software developers to spur a competitive environment through the use of such things as points and leaderboards.

Red Caesarism—senescence and solipsism

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.

This piece is written in a form of poetry and prose I call a "sonnetina." It uses the basic form of a music sonata—exposition, development, and recapitulation in which the musical subject matter is stated, explored or expanded, and restated. The word "sonata" means "to sound." I am using the "sound of words" in sonnets in place of music for development.

The border wall sheriff of high tariff

Exposition/inspiration
Quote from Greek pre-Socratic sophist, Gorgias (c.483-375 B.C.)
"Even if something could be known about it, knowledge about it cannot be communicated to others." In the case of POTUS 45 (soon to be 47) a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. He places or puts his fantasies forward as positions on issues and then gets angered and outraged when they are not accepted or opposed to by others. Think about the U.S.-Mexico border wall, his admiration for and love relationship with dictators Putin in Russia and Kim Jong Un of North Korea, climate change denial, and now high tariffs. Remember Trump saying, "Only I can do it." Solipsism is sometimes expressed as the view that "I am the only mind that exists" or "My mental states are the only mental states." This is "akin to a delusional disorder." POTUS 45 is skeptical of others.

Development/sonnets on it
The U.S. has a convicted felon for their president
who is moving back to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Do you remember that he is a former resident
who denigrated the White House at his first view.
Now new horror tales of the former "Border Sheriff"
who fears our neighbors in Canada and Mexico
On China too he wants to impose a very high tariff
on these outrageous high tariffs 47 says go go go.
U.S. and worldwide economists say the tariffs won't work
wonder what Elon Musk thinks about what Trump says
(when CEO's call Trump a f…ing moron and a big jerk)
Trump on tariffs, "China won't sell a single car in the U.S."
Our nation now steers full of fears and tears for four years
as our tragic demagogic Solipsistic Sheriff shifts his gears.
More than half of all the Tesla cars built globally are
manufactured in Shanghai, a third are destined for export.

He is 78 years old and Still POTUS 45

(A sonnet litany for a lying leader)
Trump is now 78 years old and is still POTUS 45
Now in his old age with new rage, 2nd stage—Still 45
With his age incessant rage he turns a page—Still 45
His loyalty oath is still alive and going well—Still 45
Free speech under POTUS 47 can go to hell—Still 45
Tax cheat bucks help the bigly billionaire thrive—Still 45
As his Cabinet circus forms some take a dive—Still 45
Sycophants bend the knee and babble boss jive—Still 45
Trump Bibles are for sale on the discount rack—Still 45
Few evangelicals mount a White House counterattack
as they turn the other cheek away from his misogyny
Communist dictators and tyrants give him a high five
not 47 yet he's laughing all the way to the bank
but still worried about a jail tank while he's—Still 45.

Recapitulation/coda
POTUS 45 said in a recent campaign interview when asked a question about global warming, "They don't even call it that anymore." And later, "Frack, frack, frack. Drill baby drill."
Other words for solipsistic are selfish, egotistical, narcissistic.
Sound like POTUS 45? Think POTUS 47 will be different?
Trump won the recent presidential election with 50% of the vote.
Kamala Harris received 48% of the popular vote, 76.9 million vs. 74.5 million.
Trump won by the third smallest margin in American history.

MEMORIES

From page 6

sian exiles, including one in a Berlin park, to cutting key European pipelines, engaging in massive disinformation campaigns and cyberwarfare, and serious efforts to manipulate European elections. There was even a thwarted attempt to murder a top German businessman.

"Russia clandestinely acts as a terrorist organization against the United States and its allies," Gutmann said. "The only way we can defend against this is by sharing intelligence with key European partners. I saw firsthand how critical this sharing was."

While she was ambassador, "Eighty percent of Congress came through Germany, many to my dining room with German officials, a lot of Republicans as well as Democrats, and to a person they were all pro-Ukraine," she said.

What encouraged her further was a Germany whose democratic institutions have withstood the Russian challenge, so far. "The biggest and most basic bulwark against German extremism," she told me, "is the robust system of civic education."

Something, I'd add, that Americans can only dream of.

"Every schoolchild takes required courses in the history of the Holocaust, of antisemitism and all forms of hatred and bigotry," Gutmann noted. "They identify support for Ukraine as a way of defending their own freedoms and democracy."

About 80% of Germans oppose the far right, anti-Ukraine, pro-Putin Alternative für Deutschland (AFD) party, she says; leaders in all four leading parties have agreed not to form a coalition with the AFD when Germany next holds elections in February. Any likely coalition will assuredly continue to support Ukraine. (I believe a conservative-led coalition might even be more willing to send Kyiv its much-desired Taurus missiles, now that the U.S. has authorized use of American-made long-range ATACMS on Russian soil.)

"They won't turn back," Gutmann said about German support for Ukraine. "Will we?"

She referred, of course, to German angst about the result of the U.S. presidential election and the very real possibility that President-elect Donald Trump will cut off aid to Ukraine if it won't capitulate to Putin.

When I asked if Europe could go it alone in helping Ukraine push Russia back, perhaps led by Germany, her answer was sharp and simple: No.

Although Europe gives more aid than we do to Ukraine, it doesn't have the weapons production capability or key systems that only the U.S. can deliver. Nor has it succeeded in unifying weapons production systems between key countries. Moreover, added Gutmann, "Germany doesn't want to lead alone" because of its history, nor does it have U.S. backing to do so. "Europe alone cannot win against a rising flood tide of autocratic aggression," she said.

If Putin is permitted to swallow Ukraine, he will seek to undermine the United States (irrespective of any bromance with Trump) and threaten allies with expansion. What Germans fear most, is that he will start with Moldova, Poland, and the Baltics, then move on from there. Without U.S. backing, the strongest defensive alliance in history, NATO, would come apart.

"We would be foolish to underestimate the Russian level of threat to democracies," Gutmann insisted.

"Europe has long taken its cues from the U.S. for security and on outside aggression," Gutmann explained. "If Europe has to go it alone, Ukrainian democracy loses out big time to Russia's brutal, unprovoked aggression. Energy prices rise, democratic security declines worldwide. Never has the need for allies been greater."

"We allies must hang together," she added, paraphrasing Benjamin Franklin, "or assuredly we will all hang separately." Germany's anxious query is whether this matters to Trump.

That question turns Gutmann's thoughts again to her father.

"He would say inaction and silence is injustice. We have to combat Putin. We have to make sure he doesn't win.

"He would be amazed that Germany has become one of our best allies and would insist that we not give that up.

"He would say Ukraine is fighting for freedom like those who fought the Fuehrer. Ukraine is fighting for its democracy and ours.

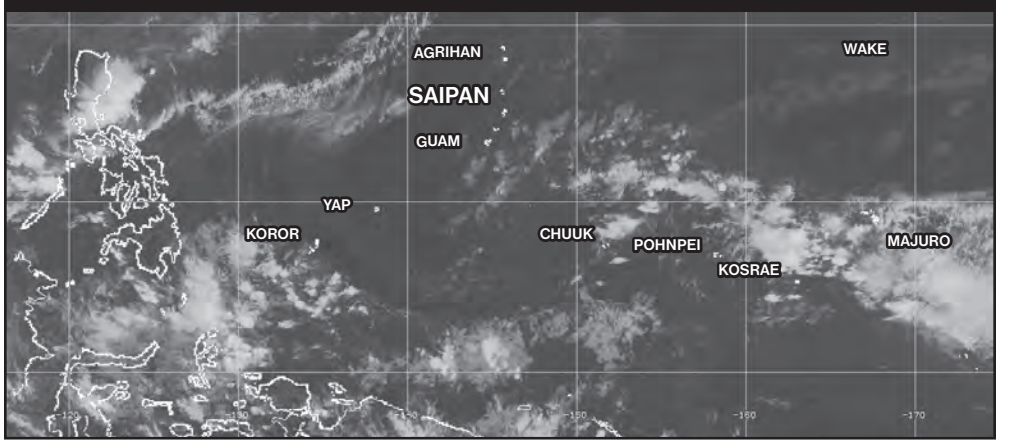
"Once it's too late, it's too late (to confront autocrats or dictators). It's not too late now."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of showers 40 percent.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. Lows around 77. Chance of showers 40 percent.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.
86° 77°	87° 78°	87° 77°	86° 77°	87° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:12 AM MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The weather and marine forecasts remain largely unchanged. The dry trade wind regime continues for today, before the first of a series of weak troughs lifts northwest across the Marianas late tonight with an associated influx in moisture. This will lead into a wetter pattern for the remainder of the week, with scattered showers in the forecast until the weekend. Ipan, Ritidian, and Tanapag buoys show combined seas of around 6 to 8 feet, in agreement with recent altimetry data which shows nearby seas at around 6 to 7 feet. Overnight scatterometry shows a moderate trade-wind surge just east of the Marianas, with areas of 20 to 22 knot winds (23 to 25 mph). Surface observations at Guam and Saipan early this morning show occasional gusts at around 20 knots to the low 20s. Winds look to diminish from Wednesday through the latter half of the week as the strong subtropical ridge north of the Marianas shifts eastward, allowing the pressure gradient to relax.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:30 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:04 AM	7:21 PM	-
Wednesday	9:00 AM	8:20 PM	-
Thursday	9:52 AM	9:19 PM	-
Friday	10:40 AM	10:17 PM	-
Saturday	11:24 AM	11:14 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	77° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 25°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 64°
Honolulu	Windy	77° / 66°
London	Cloudy	52° / 50°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75° / 47°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 74°
New York	Rain	61° / 46°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	48° / 37°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 37°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	52° / 37°
Rome	Sunny	55° / 34°
Salem	Showers	74° / 44°
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 45°
Seoul	Showers	43° / 27°
Tokyo	Sunny	52° / 36°
Washington, DC	Rain	60° / 44°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
02:39 AM	Low Tide	-0.56
10:02 AM	High Tide	1.69
3:16 PM	Low Tide	1.21
7:41 PM	High Tide	1.63

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	1:20PM	4:00PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3218/2305	2:45AM	10:20PM	Daily via Incheon
UA076/183 Guam	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily
7C3218	2:45AM	6:45AM	Daily from Dec 8
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3552	3:55AM	7:20AM	3, 6 from Dec 25

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	3:05AM	5:55AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	10:05PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA156	00:40AM	6:25AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:40AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA156	00:40AM	8:45AM	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3407	11:20PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily
7C3217	8:10PM	1:40AM+1	Daily from Dec 8

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3551	9:25PM	2:50AM+1	2, 5 from Dec 25

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

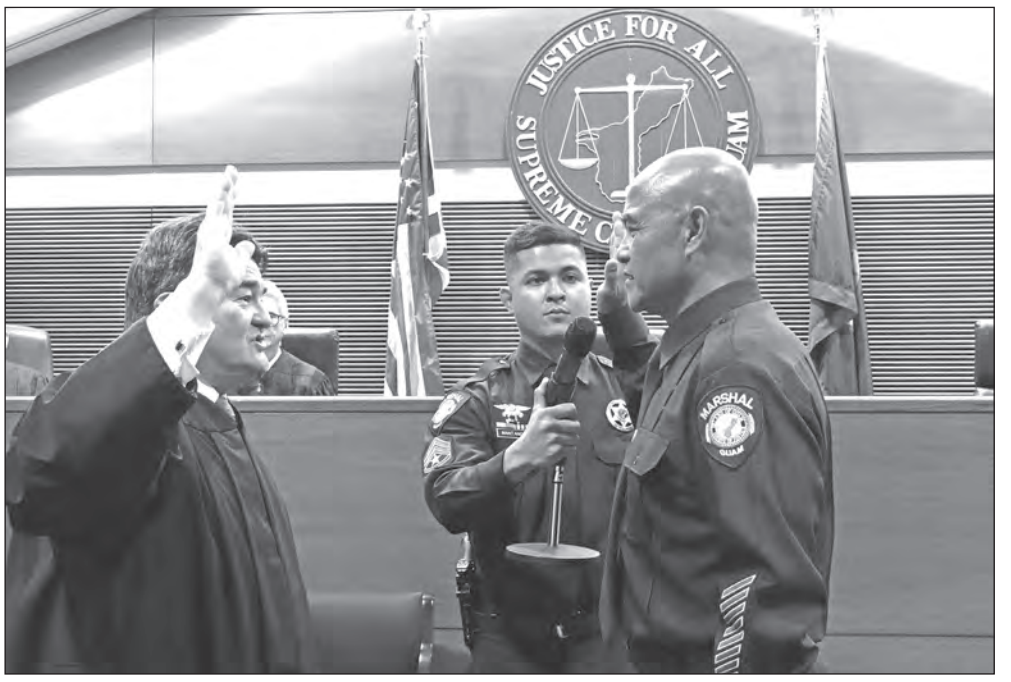
TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Leo S. Diaz sworn in as new marshal of the courts

GUAM—Leo S. Diaz officially assumed the role of marshal of the courts last Nov. 25 in a swearing-in led by Chief Justice Robert J. Torres. The ceremony, attended by Diaz's family, Judiciary members, and distinguished guests, followed his unanimous appointment by the Judicial Council on Nov. 21, 2024.

Diaz brings decades of experience to the Marshal Services Division. A graduate of the University of Guam with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, Diaz is a certified pressure tactics instructor, certified taser instructor, and certified active shooter instructor. He has led law enforcement training locally and regionally, focusing on strategies to strengthen court security and enhance public trust in judicial processes.



GUAM JUDICIARY

Chief Justice Robert J. Torres swore in Leo S. Diaz as marshal of the courts last Nov. 25 in the presence of Diaz's family, Judiciary members, and distinguished guests in attendance.

"Leo has dedicated more than three decades to safeguarding the courts and upholding their integrity," said Torres. "Under his leadership, the Marshal Services Division will continue to provide security and deliver justice for all who depend on our Judiciary."

With over 31 years of service at the Judiciary, Diaz has steadily advanced through the ranks of both the Marshal and Probation Services divisions. Beyond his work with the Judiciary, he has served as a police officer reservist with the Guam Police Department since 1995 and retired in 2023 as a Guardsman with the Guam Air National Guard.

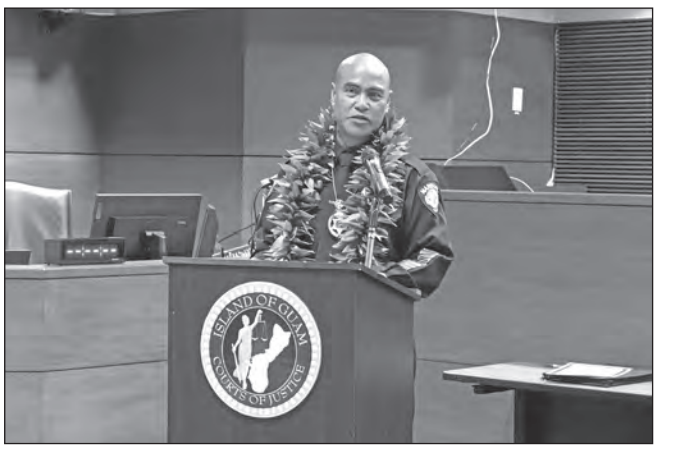
For more information, contact Sarah Elmore-Hernandez, director of Policy, Planning, and Community Relations at sehernandez@guamcourts.gov. ***(PR)***

GUAM JUDICIARY

Leo S. Diaz brings decades of experience to the Marshal Services Division.

GUAM JUDICIARY

Chief Justice Robert J. Torres presided over the swearing-in ceremony of Leo S. Diaz, the Guam Judiciary's new marshal of the courts.



GUAM JUDICIARY

With over 31 years of service at the Judiciary, Leo S. Diaz has steadily advanced through the ranks of both the Marshal and Probation Services divisions.

GUAM JUDICIARY

Newly sworn in marshal of the courts Leo S. Diaz poses with his family.

Church helps Guam's Ministry to the Homeless be shining light

Last Nov. 15 food donations from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were added to the Catholic Archdiocese of Agaña's efforts to serve some of Guam's most vulnerable residents.

The archdiocese's Ministry to the Homeless, located in Hagåtña, organizes the outreach with a stated goal to be "a shining light" in the community. The Ministry to the Homeless provides daily meals and other self-reliance services for those in need of a helping hand.

Helping to deliver and unload the food donation were elder Craig and sister Brenda Brooksby, currently serving as humanitarian missionaries in the Micronesia Guam Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "We love the opportunity to partner with our Christian friends to help meet this important need in Guam," said sister Brooksby.

The donation was accepted by program director Doris C. Royal who coordinates the organization's outreach efforts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints last month committed to donating food to the Catholic Archdiocese of Agaña's Ministry to the Homeless.

"We treat our homeless population like family," explained Royal. "We care about those we serve, and keep an organized, structured environment." A safe and welcoming environment is maintained at the facility. Those who come are expected to be respectful of the volunteers as well as each other. No one is received who is under the influence of alcohol or other substances.

In addition to the daily meal which is served between 5pm and 5:30pm., Royal explained that the ministry also helps those it serves to prepare themselves with the necessary skills and legal documentation so that they can more effectively go out into the community and seek employment. ***(PR)***

Bill to address facility repairs, equipment procurement for DOC moves to legislative session

The Guam Department of Corrections is one step closer to receiving funding for critical facility repairs and equipment procurement. During the Committee on Rules meeting last Nov. 22, 2024, Democrat Sen. Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas successfully moved Bill No. 368-37 onto the December legislative session agenda. The measure aims to reallocate funds for facility maintenance and repair, as well as the procurement of critical equipment for the Adult Correctional Facility and the Hagåtña Detention Facility.

San Nicolas

"We must act immediately to address the hazardous conditions at DOC," said San Nicolas. "Funding critical repairs and procuring necessary equipment are essential to ensuring the safety of the DOC staff, inmates, and the public."

Bill 368-37 would amend DOC's Fiscal Year 2025 budget allocation under Public Law 37-125 and reallocate $5 million initially earmarked for the construction of a new DOC facility to also fund much-needed repairs, maintenance, equipment, and security upgrades at both ACF and HDF. San Nicolas believes Bill 368-37 will allow DOC the flexibility to do immediate repairs while continuing preparations for a new correctional facility.

"We need to prioritize the safety and well-being of everyone at DOC," San Nicolas stated. "I'm glad my colleagues agreed to hear Bill 368 on the floor in the upcoming December session. I hope to gain their support once again in passing this legislation, preventing further deterioration of DOC's facilities, and upholding the integrity of our correctional system." ***(PR)***

Nation

DESPITE PREVIOUS PLEDGES NOT TO

Biden pardons his son Hunter

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden pardoned his son, Hunter, on Sunday night, sparing the younger Biden a possible prison sentence for federal felony gun and tax convictions and reversing his past promises not to use the extraordinary powers of the presidency for the benefit of his family.

The Democratic president had previously said he would not pardon his son or commute his sentence after convictions in the two cases in Delaware and California. The move comes weeks before Hunter Biden was set to receive his punishment after his trial conviction in the gun case and guilty plea on tax charges, and less than two months before President-elect Donald Trump is set to return to the White House.

It caps a long-running legal saga for the younger Biden, who publicly disclosed he was under federal investigation in December 2020—a month after his father's 2020 victory—and casts a pall over the elder Biden's legacy.

Biden, who time and again pledged to Americans that he would restore norms and respect for the rule of law after Trump's first term in office, ultimately used his position to help his son, breaking his public pledge to Americans that he would do no such thing.

In a statement released Sunday evening, Biden said, "I believe in the justice system, but as I have wrestled with this, I also believe raw politics has infected this process and it led to a miscarriage of justice."

The president's sweeping pardon covers not just the gun and tax offenses against the younger Biden, but also any other "offenses against the United States which he has committed or may have committed or taken part in during the period from January 1, 2014 through December 1, 2024."

In June, Biden categorically ruled out a pardon or commutation for his son, telling reporters as his son faced trial in the Delaware gun case, "I abide by the jury decision. I will do that and I will not pardon him."

As recently as Nov. 8, days after Trump's victory, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre ruled out a pardon or clemency for the younger Biden, saying, "We've been asked that question multiple times. Our answer stands, which is no."

The elder Biden has publicly stood by his only living son as Hunter descended into serious drug addiction and threw his family life into turmoil before getting back on track in recent years. The president's political rivals have long used Hunter Biden's myriad mistakes as a political cudgel against his father: In one hearing, lawmakers displayed photos of the drug-addled president's son half-naked in a seedy hotel.

House Republicans also sought to use the younger Biden's years of questionable overseas business ventures in a since-abandoned attempt to impeach his father, who has long denied involvement in his son's dealings or benefiting from them in any way.

"The charges in his cases came about only after several of my political opponents in Congress instigated them to attack me and oppose my election," Biden said in his statement. "No reasonable person who looks at the facts of Hunter's cases can reach any other conclusion than Hunter was singled out only because he is my son."

"I hope Americans will understand why a father and a President would come to this decision," Biden added, claiming he made the decision this weekend.

The president had spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Nantucket, Massachusetts, with Hunter and his family, and was set to depart for Angola later Sunday on what may be his last foreign trip as president before leaving office on Jan. 20, 2025.

Hunter Biden was convicted in June in Delaware federal court of three felonies for purchasing a gun in 2018 when, prosecutors said, he lied on a federal form by claiming he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs.

He had been set to stand trial in September in the California case accusing him of failing to pay at least $1.4 million in taxes. But he agreed to plead guilty to misdemeanor and felony charges in a surprise move hours after jury selection was set to begin.

David Weiss, the Trump-appointed U.S. attorney in Delaware who negotiated the plea deal, was subsequently named a special counsel by Attorney General Merrick Garland to have more autonomy over the prosecution of the president's son.

Hunter Biden said he was pleading guilty in that case to spare his family more pain and embarrassment after the gun trial aired salacious details about his struggles with a crack cocaine addiction.

The tax charges carry up to 17 years behind bars and the gun charges are punishable by up to 25 years in prison, though federal sentencing guidelines were expected to call for far less time and it was possible he would have avoided prison time entirely.

Hunter Biden was supposed to be sentenced this month in the two federal cases, which the special counsel brought after a plea deal with prosecutors that likely would have spared him prison time fell apart under scrutiny by a judge. Under the original deal, Hunter was supposed to plead guilty to misdemeanor tax offenses and and would have avoided prosecution in the gun case as long as he stayed out of trouble for two years.

But the plea hearing quickly unraveled last year when the judge raised concerns about unusual aspects of the deal. The younger Biden was subsequently indicted in the two cases.

Hunter Biden's legal team this weekend released a 52-page white paper titled "The political prosecutions of Hunter Biden," describing the president's son as a "surrogate to attack and injure his father, both as a candidate in 2020 and later as president."

The younger Biden's lawyers have long argued that prosecutors bowed to political pressure to indict the president's son amid heavy criticism by Trump and other Republicans of what they called the "sweetheart" plea deal.

Rep. James Comer, one of the Republican chairmen leading congressional investigations into Biden's family, blasted the president's pardon, saying that the evidence against Hunter was "just the tip of the iceberg."

"It's unfortunate that, rather than come clean about their decades of wrongdoing, President Biden and his family continue to do everything they can to avoid accountability," Comer said on X, the website formerly known as Twitter.

Biden is hardly the first president to deploy his pardon powers to benefit those close to him.

In his final weeks in office, Trump pardoned Charles Kushner, the father of his son-in law, Jared Kushner, as well as multiple allies convicted in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. Trump over the weekend announced plans to nominate the elder Kushner to be the U.S. envoy to France in his next administration.

World

Israeli strikes hit southern Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (AP)—Israeli jets Sunday launched an airstrike over a southern Lebanese border village, while troops shelled other border towns and villages still under Israeli control, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported.

The attacks come days after a US-brokered ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hezbollah went into effect. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

AP

Safaa Haidous, carries her daughter Yara, 4, as she speaks with her husband Rawad Srour, who is stands on the roof of their family destroyed house, as they collect the remains of their belongings after they returned to Hanouiyeh village, southern Lebanon, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2024 following a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah that went into effect on Wednesday.

The Israeli military did not immediately comment on the strike in the village of Yaroun, nor did the Hezbollah militant group. Israel continues to call on displaced Lebanese not to return to dozens of southern villages in this current stage of the ceasefire. It also continues to impose a daily curfew for people moving across the Litani River between 5 pm and 7 am.

» But tense ceasefire holds

Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati and the Lebanese military have been critical of Israeli strikes and overflights since the ceasefire went into effect, accusing Israel of violating the agreement. The military said it had filed complaints, but no clear military action has been taken by Hezbollah in response, meaning that the tense cessation of hostilities has not yet broken down.

When Israel has issued statements about these strikes, it says they were done to thwart possible Hezbollah attacks.

The United States military announced Friday that Major General Jasper Jeffers alongside senior U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein will co-chair a new U.S.-led monitoring committee that includes France, the UN peacekeeping mission in southern Lebanon known as UNIFIL, Lebanon, and Israel. Hochstein led over a year of shuttle diplomacy to broker the ceasefire deal, and his role will be temporary until a permanent civilian co-chair is appointed.

Lebanon meanwhile is trying to pick up the pieces and return to some level of normal life after the war that decimated large swaths of its south and east, displacing an estimated 1.2 million people.

Putin signs off record Russian defense spending as top EU officials visit Kyiv

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin approved budget plans, raising 2025 military spending to record levels as Moscow seeks to prevail in the war in Ukraine.

Around 32.5% of the budget posted on a government website Sunday has been allocated for national defense, amounting to 13.5 trillion rubles (over $145 billion), up from a reported 28.3% this year.

Lawmakers in both houses of the Russian parliament, the State Duma and Federation Council, had already approved the plans in the past 10 days.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine since February 2022 is Europe's biggest conflict since World War II and has drained the resources of both sides. Kyiv has been getting billions of dollars in help from its Western allies, but Russia's forces are bigger and better equipped, and in recent months the Russian army has gradually been pushing Ukrainian troops backward in eastern areas.

New European Council President Antonio Costa and EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas arrived in Kyiv on Sunday, marking their first day in office with a strong message of support for Ukraine. Their visit comes as doubts are deepening over what Kyiv can expect from a new U.S. administration led by Donald Trump.

"From day one of the war, the EU has stood by the side of Ukraine," Costa posted on X, together with a photo of himself, Kallas and EU enlargement chief Marta Kos. "From day one of our mandate, we are reaffirming our unwavering support to the Ukrainian people."

Speaking at a news conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Costa reiterated the EU's recent commitment to help Ukraine continue through the war, including €4.2 billion ($4.4 billion) to support Ukraine's budget and €1.5 billion ($1.6 billion) of assistance every month from the proceeds of frozen Russian assets.

Asked whether the EU would step up funding if Trump withdrew support, Costa said the block would "stand for Ukraine as long as necessary."

Zelenskyy said that any future ceasefire negotiations with Russia would need to include representatives from the EU and NATO, because Ukraine seem its future security in both alliances. However, he said he failed to see what any such negotiations would focus on, adding that Ukraine would "never legally recognize any occupation of our lands by the Russian Federation."

He urged the outgoing Biden administration to use the remaining two months in office to exert influence "over those few European skeptics about our future. I see nothing, I personally see no risks, and most NATO countries see no risks from the recommendation regarding the positive future of Ukraine's membership in NATO."

Life & Style

'Moana 2' sails to a record $221M opening as Hollywood celebrates a moviegoing feast

NEW YORK (AP)—Christmas came early at the box office this year.

"Moana 2" brought in a tidal wave of moviegoers over the Thanksgiving Day weekend, setting records with $221 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. That, combined with "Wicked" and "Gladiator II," made for an unprecedented weekend in cinemas and a confluence of blockbusters more like what's often found in late December.

Expectations were high for Walt Disney Co.'s "Moana 2," but the film—originally planned as a series for Disney+ before it was redirected to the big screen—blew predictions out of the water. Its five-day opening set a new record for Thanksgiving moviegoing. (The previous best was $125 million for "Frozen 2" in its second week of release in 2019.) "Moana 2" added $165.3 million internationally; with $386 million worldwide, it's the second-best global launch of the year.

At the same time, the sensation of "Wicked" showed no signs of slowing down. The Universal Pictures musical brought in $117.5 million over the five-day weekend, pushing its two-week global total to $359.2 million. Not accounting for inflation, "Wicked" is now the highest grossing Broadway adaptation over "Grease." (That 1978 film grossed $190 million, but factoring in inflation would put it past $900 million.)

"Gladiator II," meanwhile, also held well, dipping 44% from its opening weekend. Ridley Scott's sequel to his Oscar-winning best picture original collected $44 million in its second weekend. While its steep price tag of $250 million will make profitability challenging, "Gladiator II" has swiftly gathered $320 million worldwide.

Those three films drove the overall box office to a record $420 million in overall Thanksgiving weekend ticket sales, according to Comscore—more than $100 million more than ever before. For an industry that has been battered in recent years by the pandemic, work stoppages and the upheaval caused by streaming, it was a triumphant weekend that showed the still-potent power of Hollywood's blockbuster machine. Before "Wicked," "Moana 2" and "Gladiator II" arrived in theaters, ticket sales were running about 25% behind pre-pandemic levels.

Michael O'Leary, president and chief executive of the National Association of Theatre Owners, said the weekend showed what's possible when "all the pieces of the puzzle come together" in compelling big-budget movies with marketing muscle.

AP

This image released by Disney shows the characters Moana, voiced by Auli'i Cravalho, holding Simea, voiced by Khaleesi Lambert-Tsuda, in a scene from "Moana 2."

"We're very optimistic that this weekend is the start of what we believe is a full-on charge into the future," he said. "The remaining quarter of this year looks very promising and then on into 2025 and 2026. We're hoping next year is the first kind of normal year this industry has had in a long time."

Like the last time such anticipated movies collided on the release calendar—2023's much-ballyhooed "Barbenheimer"—the movie industry again could see evidence of a rising moviegoing tide lifting all blockbusters. In recent years, studios have typically tried to space out most of their biggest releases. Earlier this fall, "Venom: The Last Dance," for example, was the No. 1 film for three straight weeks, despite not being particularly successful.

"For a long, long time in Hollywood, there's been a belief that you don't put big blockbuster movies up against each other," said O'Leary. "But the truth of the matter is that competition is good. It's good for the movies. It's good for the studios. It's good for the theater owners. But it's particularly good for the moviegoing public."

"Moana 2" was the nexus of a strategy shift for Disney. When it first began development, it was fashioned as a series for streaming. But when Bob Iger returned as chief executive, he reconsidered the balance between theatrical and streaming. The original "Moana," after all, was the most streamed movie on Disney+ in 2023, with the added benefit of $680 million in box office in 2016. Only in February this year did Iger announce the release of "Moana 2," with Auli'i Cravalho and Dwayne Johnson returning as the voices of Moana and Maui.

"It just shows you that the big screen and small screen are not adversarial. They can be complementary and additive," says Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "Whoever made that decision to go big screen globally with 'Moana 2,' that was one of the greatest decisions ever."

And it helped lead a resurgence for Walt Disney Co., whose last two animated November releases—"Strange World" and "Wish"—fizzled in theaters. "Moana 2" may become the third $1 billion-grossing movie for the studio in 2024, along with "Inside Out 2" and "Deadpool & Wolverine." Though reviews for "Moana 2" have only been 65% "fresh" on Rotten Tomatoes, audiences gave it an "A-" CinemaScore.

"Moana 2" is also part of a major rebound for family moviegoing. According to David A. Gross, a film consultant who publishes a newsletter for Franchise Entertainment, family moviegoing in 2024 is going to account for approximately $6.8 billion in ticket sales, roughly the sums of 2022 and 2023, combined.

Pooches in pullovers strut their stuff at London's canine Christmas sweater parade

LONDON (AP)—Pooches in pullovers paraded past Buckingham Palace on Saturday for a gathering of dogs in Christmas sweaters to raise funds for rescue charities.

About 130 pets, and their owners, walked Saturday from St. James's Park and along the Mall, the wide boulevard that leads to the royal palace as part of the Christmas Jumper Parade.

Prizes were awarded for best-dressed pets, with contenders including canine Santas, puppy elves and a French bulldog dressed in a red beret and pink jacket adorned with red bows.

The event was organized by Rescue Dogs of London and Friends to raise money for charities that rehome dogs from overseas.

Christmas sweater animal parades have become something of an annual tradition in London. There are more to come this year, including an event for corgis—the late Queen Elizabeth II's favorite breed—on Dec. 7 and the dachshund-friendly Hyde Park Sausage Walk on Dec 15.

AP

People and dogs take part during the Rescue Dogs of London and Friends Christmas Jumper Parade, outside Buckingham Palace in central London on Saturday Nov. 30, 2024.

Woman holds life insurance policies on son's wife

DEAR ABBY: I've recently discovered that my mother-in-law has two life insurance policies on me, neither of which I knew about, and one of which is close to 20 years old. I never asked nor authorized her to take out these policies, and I am very concerned.

We do not have a good relationship. She isn't welcome in my life or our home because she is disrespectful and meddlesome. My husband has very little to do with her but doesn't seem to be bothered by the fact that she took it upon herself to get these policies. Because she sells insurance, she makes it seem like it's no big deal, but it is to me.

I have my own insurance and have for all of my adult life (I am nearing 50), and I'm appalled at the idea of her collecting a payout from my demise. She has never provided us a copy of the policies, nor do we know who the beneficiaries are. In fact, we know of their existence only because she let it slip in a conversation when we told her that because she is so rude and disrespectful, we are limiting our contact with her.

Am I crazy, or are my concerns justified? Is it even legal for her to have these? Why is she wagering on my dying before her?

LIFE INSURED IN NEVADA

DEAR LIFE INSURED: You have my sympathy. Your mother-in-law appears to be a handful. Discuss this with your own insurance agent. Explain what you have learned and ask whether what your mother-in-law has done is legal, because it may not be. That she is in the insurance business makes this even worse. That you became aware of this information during an "unpleasant" conversation strikes me as possible retaliation for telling her something she didn't want to hear. She may even be lying about it.

Your insurance agent can explain what remedies can be taken to correct this if it is true. If she is a licensed broker who has done something illegal, she could lose her license.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been alienated from my daughter, "Bonnie," for 30 years. Her mother and I divorced, and I remarried. Bonnie was in her late teens and early 20s at the time. For a time, she lived with me, my new wife and my wife's daughter. Bonnie was an absolute "queen" and thought we should defer to her every wish. She offered no help around the house and paid no rent.

I finally asked her to leave. It was either get her out of the house or lose my new wife. Later, Bonnie married and asked me to come to her wedding, but not bring my wife. I told her, "Sorry, I won't be there." She was angry at me for it and still is, according to her brother.

I have written her off but have been encouraged by a friend to try and reconnect with her. I think Bonnie has a grudge, and it would be useless to attempt reconciliation and open myself up to more pain from being around her. I think she's stuck in what happened 30 years ago and isn't about to let go. Your opinion, please?

DEJECTED DAD IN OREGON

DEAR DAD: Has this friend or Bonnie's brother given you any impression that Bonnie would like to reconcile with you and your wife? If the answer is yes, give it a try. If not, let sleeping dogs lie.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

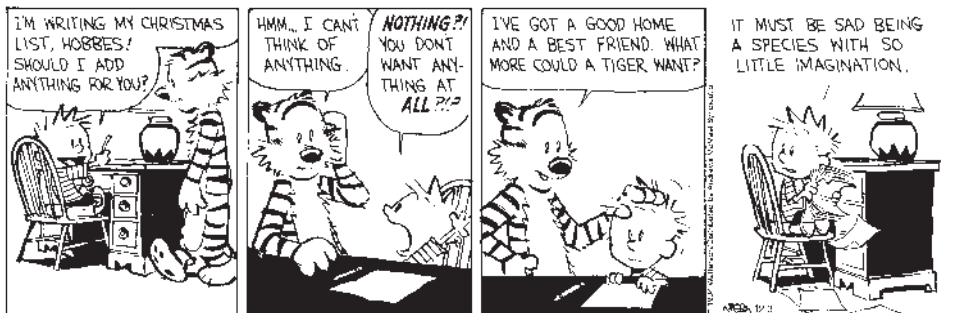
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M WRITING MY CHRISTMAS LIST, HOBBES! SHOULD I ADD ANYTHING FOR YOU?
HMM... I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING.
NOTHING?! YOU DON'T WANT ANYTHING AT ALL?!?
I'VE GOT A GOOD HOME AND A BEST FRIEND. WHAT MORE COULD A TIGER WANT?
IT MUST BE SAD BEING A SPECIES WITH SO LITTLE IMAGINATION.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

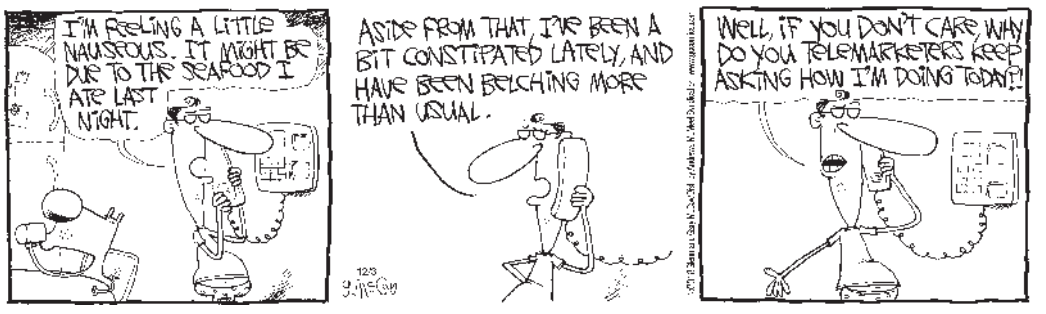
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD! THE CHRISTMAS SQUIRREL IS MISSING!
OH, YEAH! THE LITTLE GUY IN THE PARKA? HOLDING A CHRISTMAS TREE?
SHAKES HIS HIPS AND SINGS "NUTTY NUT HOLIDAY"?
STOP! THE MEMORIES MAKE IT HARDER.
HE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR ON THOSE CHEAP BATTERIES I USED.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'M FEELING A LITTLE NAUSEOUS. IT MIGHT BE DUE TO THE SEAFOOD I ATE LAST NIGHT.
ASIDE FROM THAT, I'VE BEEN A BIT CONSTIPATED LATELY, AND HAVE BEEN BELCHING MORE THAN USUAL.
WELL, IF YOU DON'T CARE, WHY DO YOU TELEMARKETERS KEEP ASKING HOW I'M DOING TODAY?!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

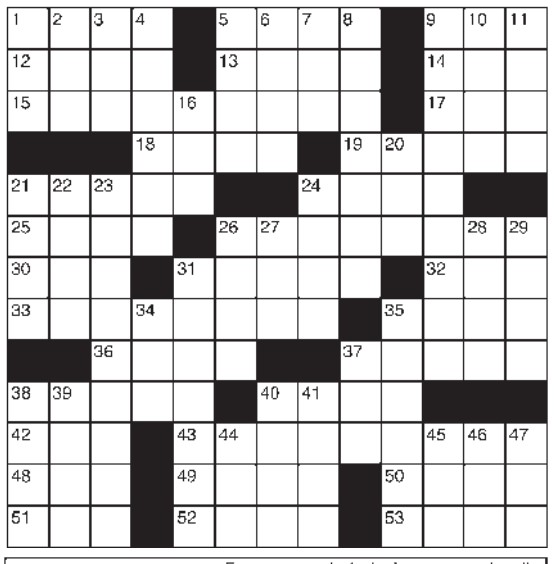
ACROSS
1 Pocket bread
5 Castor's mother
9 Bamboozle
12 "Closer" actor Clive
13 Currier's partner
14 Ms. Thurman
15 Iron Man's alter ego
17 Make lace
18 Raw materials
19 Elroy's dog
21 Kind of question
24 Jet-black
25 Art Deco luminary
26 Ordinate counterpart
30 Aunt, in Mexico
31 Stag
32 MSN alternative
33 Hobby
35 A Great Lake
36 911 responders
37 Bracelet site
38 Hedren of "The Birds"
40 "Dear," in Rome
42 Broadway's Hagen
43 Floor blemish
48 Saloon
49 Low horn
50 Hotel chain
51 Caribou kin
52 Char
53 Take five

DOWN
1 Cauldron
2 — Jima
3 Sawbuck
4 Whoever
5 Low-calorie
6 Gabor and Longoria
7 Aachen article
8 With suspicion, as a look
9 British clipper ship
10 Epps of "House"
11 Post-WWII alliance
16 "No seats"
20 Enjoy the Alps
21 Bigfoot's cousin
22 Sportscaster Andrews
23 New York's Bear Mountain, for one
24 "— She Lovely"
26 Pub potables
27 Derek and Diddley
28 Flower pot filler
29 Nautical direction
31 Hopper and Monet, e.g.
34 Hirohito's title (Abbr.)
35 Captivate
37 Canine cry
38 Toothpaste holder
39 Slanted type (Abbr.)
40 Castro's land
41 Off in the distance
44 Prompt
45 Soul, to Sartre
46 ICU workers
47 Tool set

Solution time: 22 mins.

D	U	A	L	■	I	N	K	■	A	E	R	O
O	N	T	I	P	T	O	E	■	D	R	A	W
T	I	M	C	L	I	N	C	■	M	I	N	C
■	■	■	D	A	S	■	P	A	I	N	T	S
A	L	P	E	N	■	S	T	I	R	■	■	■
L	E	E	R	■	T	A	I	L	E	N	D	■
B	A	A	■	F	I	R	M	S	■	O	U	T
■	P	R	E	E	M	I	E	■	O	R	C	A
■	■	N	A	E	S	■	D	H	A	K	E	■
C	L	E	A	H	S	■	E	H	A	■	■	■
P	A	L	M	■	L	I	F	E	T	I	M	E
A	L	O	E	■	O	P	T	I	O	N	A	L
S	A	I	L	■	T	O	S	■	R	C	A	L

Yesterday's answer 12-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amanda Seyfried, 39; Bruno Campos, 51; Holly Marie Combs, 51; Julianne Moore, 64.

Happy Birthday: Get organized. Open discussions will help you resolve issues stopping you from moving forward. A change is overdue, and being the one pushing forward will help build the momentum necessary to reach your goal. Actions coupled with well-thought-out plans and putting together a team that can help will also build confidence and give you the strength and courage to redirect anyone who gets in your way. Your numbers are 8, 11, 23, 34, 37, 42, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: That you're dealing with people, institutions or agencies that lack integrity is apparent. Do your due diligence and get what you want in writing before you commit. A physical outlet will ease stress and help you formulate a clear picture of a situation that makes you uncertain or nervous. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A change will help you get a glimpse of new possibilities. Put your energy into something that offers hope and concrete results. Balance is the key to positive movement. Assemble what you require and push forward with intent. It's your life; choose to do what works for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Sign up for something that excites you. Reuniting with someone who brings back fond memories will lead to choices that can improve your lifestyle. Travel, learning and playful interaction will expand your mind and encourage you to make your dreams come true, as long as you don't make promises you cannot deliver. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take a creative route. Allow your imagination to infiltrate your work; the results will impact what develops. Before you share your plans, take the necessary precautions to ensure you have accurate facts and figures to reach your target. A lifestyle change will improve your wealth and your health. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Mix business with pleasure, and it will offer insight into who you can trust. Look for opportunities to apply what you have to offer to current trends. A proactive approach to what you do will raise eyebrows and interest. Listen to suggestions and adjust as you go. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You can have fun without going overboard. Cap your expenditures and control your intake. A change of location or in interests will offer insight into something you can use your skills, experience and talent to improve. A problem at home will develop if you give someone too much leeway. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Speak up, establish your motives and see who wants to join your team. Stick to basics to ensure everyone gets the same message and understands the possibilities. Refuse to let emotions come between making a good or poor decision. A business trip, meeting or conference will offer insight. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Put your energy to good use. Choose peace over discord and action over laziness. Set standards that demand your attention and can carry you to the finish line. Leave nothing to chance and oversee what requires undivided attention. Make gestures that draw like-minded people. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Refrain from making promises that can get in your way. It's up to you to clear a passage that leads to your success and well-being. Too much of anything will be to your detriment. Monitor your schedule and prioritize what matters to you most. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Pay attention to paperwork; avoid letting documents expire and refuse to let anyone else take care of matters for you. Follow the dots and which way the money flows. Knowing where and what is going on is the key to getting things done right the first time. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You must recognize and take advantage of opportunities. Stand up and be counted, and you'll establish your presence and gain respect from those in a position to pitch in and help you reach your goal. A dynamic, hardworking attitude will lead to victory. Trust and believe in yourself. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be careful what you wish for and who you deal with today. If you are gullible, someone will happily lead you astray or take advantage of you. Ask questions, fact-check and be ready to take flight if that's what's required to dodge a scammer. Self-improvement is your best choice. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are ambitious, enthusiastic and energetic. You are imaginative and friendly.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9	7		6	5		2		
5	6		3	7	2			9
	8		9			5		
	1	6		8	3			
3			4		7	6		1
4		9				3		
1							5	6
			5			8	9	
8			7	3	6			

Difficulty: ★★ 12/3

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	7	3	8	2	1	9	4	6
6	2	8	5	9	4	7	1	3
1	9	4	7	3	6	8	2	5
4	8	6	1	5	9	2	3	7
2	3	1	6	4	7	5	8	9
9	5	7	3	8	2	1	6	4
7	1	5	4	6	8	3	9	2
3	4	9	2	1	5	6	7	8
8	6	2	9	7	3	4	5	1

Difficulty: ★ 12/2

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

REDIALING Solution: 6 letters

S	E	N	O	H	P	E	L	E	T	I	K	D	S	Y
U	R	S	R	R	E	P	E	A	T	R	C	R	R	S
O	E	O	D	T	R	E	L	A	O	D	L	O	H	U
I	T	U	E	I	C	K	G	W	Ⓢ	S	M	C	N	B
V	U	N	R	C	P	I	T	E	P	Ⓔ	N	E	S	G
E	R	D	E	O	N	E	S	E	M	L	Ⓝ	R	D	N
R	N	E	R	I	N	A	C	U	I	I	A	Ⓓ	R	I
P	E	T	K	O	C	I	T	A	M	O	T	U	A	R
E	A	B	T	A	F	I	T	S	E	R	V	I	C	E
L	G	T	M	I	E	E	F	L	I	R	T	I	A	W
I	U	A	C	U	D	P	L	F	E	D	O	C	L	S
B	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S	E	L	G	T	L	N
O	R	A	T	S	C	R	E	C	E	N	T	N	S	A
M	U	T	E	N	E	E	R	C	S	H	C	U	O	T
G	N	I	T	E	E	M	E	N	I	L	D	N	A	L

© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 12/3

Alert, Answer, Automatic, Business, Busy, Button, Call, Cards, Cell, Code, Detail, Efficient, Hold, Icon, Landline, Long Distance, Meeting, Memory, Message, Mobile, Music, Mute, Network, Number, Order, Portal, Previous, Recent, Record, Repeat, Return, Ring, Send, Service, Sound, Speaker, Specific, Star, Store, Talk, Telephone, Time, Touchscreen, Wait

Yesterday's Answer: Marketing

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367. Order now in time for the holidays!

Despite special teams blunders Seahawks manage a come-from-behind win over Jets

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Zach Charbonnet ran for a go-ahead 8-yard touchdown with 5:31 remaining, Leonard Williams returned an interception 92 yards for a momentum-turning score and the Seattle Seahawks held on to beat the New York Jets 26-21 on a chilly, windy Sunday for their third straight victory.

Geno Smith threw a touchdown pass to AJ Barner for the Seahawks (7-5), who were sloppy early but took over sole possession of first place in the NFC West with Arizona losing to Minnesota.

Aaron Rodgers and the Jets (3-9) led most of the way and appeared energized early in their first game coming out of their bye-week break. But they were held scoreless in the second half.

Charbonnet's score came on a drive helped by four penalties on the Jets, who finished with 12 of them.

All that came after a wacky first half that featured a 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by New York's Kene Nwangwu, Williams' interception return and three fumbled kickoffs by the Seahawks, with two recovered by the Jets.

AP

Seattle Seahawks quarterback Geno Smith (7) reacts after a touchdown by running back Zach Charbonnet during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the New York Jets, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024, in East Rutherford, N.J.

VIKINGS 23, CARDINALS 22

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Sam Darnold's second touchdown pass of the second half went to Aaron Jones for Minnesota's first lead with 1:13 left, and the Vikings rallied from 13 points down to beat the Cardinals for their fifth straight victory.

Darnold went 21 for 31 for 235 yards while being sacked five times by the blitz-heavy Cardinals, who kept the Vikings (10-2) out of the end zone until Darnold hit Johnny Mundt with 1:17 remaining in the third quarter.

Kyler Murray threw two interceptions in the fourth quarter to spoil what had been a stellar performance by the Cardinals (6-6), who fell into second place in the NFC West behind Seattle.

Jonathan Greenard poked the ball out of Murray's hand on second down for Minnesota's first sack of the game with 48 seconds to go, and Greenard chased down Murray on the next play for a 3-yard gain in bounds to force Arizona to use its second timeout.

The Vikings then swarmed Murray in the pocket on fourth down, forcing a desperation heave that Shaquill Griffin picked off. Earlier, Murray's risky fling on third down under pressure was intercepted by Byron Murphy at the Minnesota 32, setting up the Vikings for a third field goal by Parker Romo.

Justin Jefferson had seven receptions for 99 yards for the Vikings, including an underneath catch on fourth-and-6 from the Arizona 34 that kept the winning drive alive.

STEELERS 44, BENGALS 38

CINCINNATI (AP)—Russell Wilson threw for a season-high 414 yards and three touchdowns, and Pittsburgh outlasted Joe Burrow and Cincinnati.

Wilson logged the second-most passing yards and the third 400-yard game of his career. He threw for 452 yards for Seattle against Houston on Oct. 29, 2017.

Wilson finished 29 for 38 as the Steelers (9-3) rebounded from losing to the Browns 24-19 in a Nov. 21 game in the snow in Cleveland. He also threw an interception that was returned for a touchdown in the first quarter.

The Bengals (4-8) lost for the fourth time in five games. They also dropped to 1-5 at home, increasing the likelihood that they will miss the playoffs for the second straight year.

Najee Harris had a 10-yard touchdown run and Chris Boswell kicked two field goals to help Pittsburgh to a 27-21 halftime lead. It was the highest scoring first half in the 110 meetings between the long-time rivals. Wilson had 257 yards passing for his best total in a first half in his career.

Harris finished with 75 yards rushing and 54 yards receiving. George Pickens, Calvin Austin III and Pat Freiermuth caught TD passes for the Steelers.

CHARGERS 17, FALCONS 13

ATLANTA (AP)—Rookie Tarheeb Still returned an interception 61 yards for a touchdown, his second pick of the game and one of four thrown by Atlanta quarterback Kirk Cousins as the Chargers handed the first-place Falcons their third straight loss.

In a game that neither team seemed eager to win, the Chargers (8-4) overcame five sacks, a fumble deep in their own territory, a fake punt that didn't work and a largely listless offense.

The 36-year-old Cousins looked like a rookie for the Falcons (6-6) on a fourth-and-5 pass at the Los Angeles 40 late in the third quarter.

Still read the play all the way, stepping in front of Darnell Mooney and sprinting untouched down the sideline in front of the Falcons bench for the touchdown that put the Chargers ahead to stay.

COLTS 25, PATRIOTS 24

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Anthony Richardson threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Alec Pierce with 12 seconds left and ran for the go-ahead 2-point conversion, and Indianapolis beat New England when the Patriots' Joey Slye missed a 68-yard field goal attempt as time expired.

Richardson finished 12 of 24 for 109 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions to help the Colts (6-7) keep their playoff hopes alive. Three of Indianapolis' final four opponents have losing records.

The Patriots (3-10) have lost four of five. Drake Maye finished 24 of 30 for 238 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

Indianapolis capitalized on a pass-interference penalty to get into the red zone with just over a minute left. Then, facing fourth-and-goal on the 3, Richardson rolled out and hit Pierce to get Indy within a point.

TEXANS 23, JAGUARS 20

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Joe Mixon ran for 101 yards and a touchdown, Nico Collins caught eight passes for 119 yards and Houston beat Jacksonville after knocking quarterback Trevor Lawrence out of the game with a concussion.

The AFC South-leading Texans (8-5) won for just the second time in five weeks and staggered into their bye week with a little momentum.

Mixon became the third player in NFL history with at least 100 yards rushing and a rushing touchdown in six road games in the same season. He joined Tiki Barber of the New York Giants (2004) and Derrick Henry of Tennessee (2020) in accomplishing the feat. Mixon is the first to reach the marks in his first six road games of a season.

He carried 20 times, none bigger than his 8-yard gain on third-and-5 in the waning minutes that moved the chains and sealed the victory.

COMMANDERS 42, TITANS 19

LANDOVER, Md. (AP)—Jayden Daniels threw two of his three touchdown passes to Terry McLaurin and also scored one rushing, and Washington got their groove back by beating Tennessee to end their losing streak at three.

Daniels completed 25 of 30 passes for 206 yards and the TD passes to McLaurin and Zach Ertz, offsetting his interception and bolstering his status as favorite for AP Offensive Rookie of the Year. Brian Robinson Jr. returned from a sprained ankle to run for 103 yards and a TD, and the defense and special teams each forced a fumble in a game the Commanders (8-5) had well in hand before halftime.

The bounce back from defeats to Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Dallas keeps Washington solidly in a playoff spot at its long-awaited bye week. It was made possible by the offense returning to elite, early season form following a series of questions about Daniels and coordinator Kliff Kingsbury that mounted during the skid.

The Commanders went nine of 14 on third down and went up 28-0 just over 19 minutes into the game — the fastest lead by that margin since Baltimore did it in 16:11 against Miami in 2019. Washington scored 21 points in the first quarter for the first time since 2015.

RAMS 21, SAINTS 14

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Matthew Stafford passed for two fourth-quarter touchdowns, Kyren Williams rushed for 104 yards and a score, and Los Angeles beat New Orleans to hand interim Saints coach Darren Rizzi his first loss.

The Saints drove inside the Rams 10-yard line in the final minutes, but Derek Carr's pass on fourth-and-3 was deflected from behind by edge rusher Jared Verse and fell incomplete.

That allowed the Rams (6-6) to run out the clock on the Saints (4-8) and Rizzi, who had won his first two games since taking over after the firing of Dennis Allen.

Stafford passed for 183 yards without a turnover. His scoring passes went for 3 yards to Demarcus Robinson and 7 yards to Puca Nacua, the latter putting the Rams up for good with 8:54 left.

EAGLES 24, RAVENS 19

BALTIMORE (AP)—Saquon Barkley scored on a 25-yard run with 7:56 remaining, and Philadelphia's stingy defense kept Lamar Jackson mostly under control in a victory over Baltimore, the Eagles' eighth win in a row.

Justin Tucker's nightmarish season continued for Baltimore. The star kicker missed two field goals and an extra point as the Ravens (8-5) fell 1 1/2 games behind first-place Pittsburgh in the AFC North. The NFC East-leading Eagles (10-2) rallied from an early 9-0 deficit with two second-quarter touchdowns, and although Tucker did make a 50-yard kick shortly before halftime, the Ravens didn't manage a point after that until the final seconds of the game.

The much-anticipated rushing matchup between Saquon Barkley of the Eagles and Derrick Henry of the Ravens didn't quite live up to expectations. A good fourth quarter pushed Barkley up to 107 yards rushing. Henry produced 82 yards along with three catches for 29 yards.

Down 14-12, the Ravens had the ball for most of the third quarter but couldn't score because Tucker—an all-time great at his position who has slipped badly this year—missed kicks of 47 and 53 yards.

BUCCANEERS 26, PANTHERS 23, OT

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Chase McLaughlin kicked a 30-yard field goal in overtime, Baker Mayfield overcame an ankle injury to lead four scoring drives in the fourth quarter and the extra period, and Tampa Bay beat Carolina to move into a tie for first place in the NFC South.

Bucky Irving ran for a career-high 152 yards and a touchdown for the Bucs (6-6), who caught Atlanta atop the division. Mayfield finished 21 of 33 for 235 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions to improve to 4-0 against the Panthers, who cut him in 2022.

Mike Evans had five catches for 118 yards, including a one-handed grab on a 1-yard touchdown catch for Tampa Bay.

BILLS 35, 49ERS 10

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Josh Allen scored a receiving touchdown on a pass he threw in his latest do-everything performance, and Buffalo clinched their fifth straight AFC East title with a victory over San Francisco.

Allen had touchdowns passing, rushing and receiving, becoming the first quarterback and seventh player in the Super Bowl era to do that and the first since the Niners' Christian McCaffrey in 2022.

His receiving TD came on a play in which he threw to Amari Cooper, who was wrapped up short of the goal line and pitched the ball back to Allen. The QB sprinted to the left corner of the end zone and dived past for the pylon for the score. Allen was credited with a touchdown passing and receiving on the play, although it did not count as a reception.

His final numbers: 13 of 17 passing for 148 yards and two touchdowns, three rushes for 18 yards and a score, and zero catches for 7 yards and a TD.

Magic beat Nets for 2nd win over Brooklyn in 3 days

NEW YORK (AP)—Franz Wagner had 20 points, nine rebounds, eight assists and two blocks, and the Orlando Magic claimed their sixth straight win, and second in three days over the Nets, with a 100-92 victory against Brooklyn on Sunday.

Goga Bitadze added 12 points and 13 rebounds, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 16 points and Wendell Carter Jr. had 14 points and seven rebounds to help Orlando claim its 12th win in its past 13 games despite committing a season-high 22 turnovers.

Cam Johnson led Brooklyn with 26 points, and Dennis Schroder added 20 points and seven assists.

After an evenly matched first half that featured 14 lead changes and 11 ties, Orlando did its best to take control in the third quarter by outscoring Brooklyn 25-19. Despite losing second-leading scorer Jalen Suggs, who picked up his fifth foul at the 10:41 mark, the Magic went on a 17-6 run and built their largest lead, 69-59.

But Brooklyn did not wilt. The Nets opened the fourth quarter with a 7-0 run, with Schroder scoring five points, including a three-point play that gave them the lead 76-75 with 10:45 left.

AP

Orlando Magic center Moritz Wagner (21) goes to the basket against Brooklyn Nets center Nic Claxton, left, during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024, in New York.

GRIZZLIES 136, PACERS 121

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Jaren Jackson Jr. had 25 points, eight rebounds and three blocks as Memphis erased a 19-point first-half deficit and defeated Indiana.

Ja Morant finished with 19 points and eight assists, and Marcus Smart and Desmond Bane added 16 points each as Memphis won its sixth straight.

Bennedict Mathurin led the Pacers with 19 points and nine rebounds, part of six Indiana players finishing in double figures. Pascal Siakam scored 17 points and handed out six assists, and Obi Toppin had 16 points and eight rebounds.

The Pacers got some help on the injury front as starting guard Andrew Nembhard returned after missing 14 games in November with left knee inflammation. His 14 first-half points helped Indiana to a double-digit lead. He did not play in the second half as he was on limited minutes.

CAVALIERS 115, CELTICS 111

CLEVELAND (AP)—Donovan Mitchell scored 20 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter as Cleveland ended Boston's seven-game winning streak with a victory over the Celtics in the second intense matchup between the Eastern Conference's top teams this season.

Mitchell made all six field-goal attempts—including four 3-pointers—in the fourth as the Cavs overcame a 12-point deficit. The All-Star guard scored 30 points in the second half after going just 2 of 8 from the floor in the first.

Darius Garland added 22 points for Cleveland, which got some revenge on Boston after the defending NBA champions handed the Cavs their first loss on Nov. 19 following a 15-0 start.

Jayson Tatum scored 33 points and Payton Pritchard 24 for the Celtics, who led 93-81 in the fourth before Mitchell took over. Kristaps Porzingis added 21 points for Boston.

The Celtics played without two starters: Jaylen Brown (illness) and Derrick White (foot sprain).

KNICKS 118, PELICANS 85

NEW YORK (AP)—Mikal Bridges scored 31 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 14 points and 19 rebounds, and New York beat injury-depleted New Orleans Pelicans.

Bridges, who was benched in the fourth quarter of Friday's victory at Charlotte, rebounded by shooting 12 for 19 from the field and 7 for 12 from 3 for the Knicks, who have won seven of their last 10 games.

Jalen Brunson had 16 points and Miles McBride chipped in 13 points off the bench.

CJ McCollum had 13 points and Trey Murphy III and Yves Missi each scored 11 for the Pelicans, who have lost eight consecutive games and 14 of 15.

The Knicks held the Pelicans to 28 points in the first half.

New Orleans shot 35 for 94 from the field and made just four of their 27 attempts from beyond the arc.

RAPTORS 119, HEAT 116

TORONTO (AP)—RJ Barrett scored 37 points, Scottie Barnes had 23 points and 10 rebounds, and Toronto beat Miami Heat.

Jakob Poeltl had 17 points and 11 rebounds and rookie Ja'Kobe Walter scored 12 points as Toronto improved to 5-4 at home.

Barrett shot 15 for 20 and made all four of his free-throw attempts. He finished 3 for 4 from 3-point range.

Barnes had his sixth career triple-double in Friday's loss at Miami and narrowly missed his seventh Sunday, when he finished with nine assists.

Tyler Herro scored 31 points and Jimmy Butler added 17 but Miami lost for the first time in three games. The Heat have not won three straight so far this season.

Herro shot 6 for 12 from long range but missed a 3 that would have tied the score with 29 seconds left.

ROCKETS 119, THUNDER 116

HOUSTON (AP)—Fred VanVleet had a season-high 38 points and Dillon Brooks made a go-ahead jump shot late to help Houston to a win over Oklahoma City.

The game was tied at 113 when Brooks hit the short jumper in the lane just before the shot clock expired to put the Rockets on top with 33.1 seconds to go.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander missed a shot on the other end and Brooks grabbed the rebound. VanVleet was fouled and made both free throws to make it 117-113 with 4.6 seconds remaining.

Jalen Williams got the Thunder within 1 on a 3-pointer with 2.4 seconds left, but VanVleet made two more free throws to secure the win.

LAKERS 105, JAZZ 104

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Anthony Davis had 33 points and 11 rebounds, LeBron James added 27 points and 14 assists, and shorthanded Los Angeles beat Utah.

After James missed a 3-pointer—his 10th attempt of the night—in the closing seconds, Utah had a chance to win the game but Collin Sexton fumbled the inbounds pass and couldn't get a shot off before the buzzer.

James made a running left-handed hook with 41.0 seconds left but Walker Kessler made a putback on the other end to keep the Jazz within a basket.

Lauri Markkanen scored 22 points and John Collins had 21 but the Jazz lost for the eighth time inin agonizing fashion, their eighth loss in the last nine games.

MAVERICKS 106, TRAIL BLAZERS 94

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Luka Doncic returned from a wrist injury and had 36 points in the Dallas Mavericks' victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Doncic, who missed five games, also had 13 assists in the Mavericks' fourth straight win.

The Mavs were missing Kyrie Irving, who had 30 points in a 106-94 win Saturday over the Utah Jazz, because of a sore shoulder. The Mavs were also without Klay Thompson (left foot), Dereck Lively II (right knee) and Naji Marshall (illness).

Anfernee Simons had 27 points, including six 3-pointers, for the Blazers.

Dallas led by 112-101 after Spencer Dinwiddie's 3-pointer in the fourth quarter, but the Blazers came back to tie it at 127 on Deni Avdija's three-point play with 1:54 left.

P.J. Washington answered with a 3-pointer from the baseline for Dallas and the Blazers couldn't catch up.

SPURS 127, KINGS 125

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Victor Wembanyama had 34 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists for his first triple-double of the season, and San Antonio beat Sacramento for their fifth win in six games.

Devin Vassell added 21 points off the bench for San Antonio. Chris Paul finished with 13 points.

DeRozan had 28 points to lead the Kings, who led by 17 points in the first quarter and were up 65-58 at halftime.

The Spurs used a 19-7 run to take a third-quarter lead, but the Kings responded to lead 97-92 heading into the fourth.

Wembanyama finished with five 3-pointers and had 13 points in the fourth quarter. With the Spurs ahead by two, Paul made a 3-pointer with 20 seconds remaining.

Keldon Johnson split free throws with the Spurs ahead by two with 9 seconds left, but got his own offensive rebound. Paul made two free throws with 5.5 seconds to go to put San Antonio up five, and Domantas Sabonis hit a 3-pointer for Sacramento at the buzzer for the final margin.

CLIPPERS 126, NUGGETS 122

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—James Harden scored 39 points—making all 13 of his free throws—and Los Angeles overcame Nikola Jokic's triple-double to beat Denver.

Jokic finished with 28 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists for his eighth triple-double of the season.

Harden narrowly missed a triple-double of his own, finishing with nine rebounds and 11 assists.

Norman Powell added 28 points for the Clippers in his return after missing six games because of an injury.

Harden made three 3-pointers in the first half, giving him 3,000 in his career.

Antetokounmpo raises his game to help Bucks make quick turnaround from poor start

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Bucks owe much of their turnaround from a dreadful start to the way Giannis Antetokounmpo has raised his extraordinary game to an even higher level.

He has three triple-doubles in the last six games he has played.

"He's been amazing because he's scoring, but more importantly, he's getting everybody involved," Bucks coach Doc Rivers said after the Bucks' 124-114 victory over the Washington Wizards on Saturday night. "It's so difficult to help off a passer that can score. There's a lot of guys in this league who can score, (but) they ain't passing. You can go trap them. You can kind of junk up the game. But the way Giannis is passing, you've got to pick your poison."

Antetokounmpo had 42 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists Saturday for the highest-scoring triple-double of his career while helping the Bucks win their sixth straight.

After losing eight of their first 10 games this season, the Bucks have won eight of nine to get above .500 at 10-9 for the first time since beating Philadelphia in their season opener. The Bucks' progress was evident Saturday in how they found a way to win on a night when they weren't particularly sharp.

"If this was the third game or fourth game of the season, we probably would have lost that game," Antetokounmpo said. "Now we just know—no matter if it looks pretty, if we're playing well—we've got to figure out ways to win the game."

Antetokounmpo has been figuring out plenty of ways to help his team lately. His 42-point performance Saturday improved his season scoring average to an NBA-leading 32.9 points.

He also has 11.9 rebounds and 6.6 assists per game.

Rivers said Saturday that this is "by far" the best stretch he's seen from Antetokounmpo since taking over as the Bucks' coach midway through last season.

"Because it's not just scoring," Rivers said. "It's everything. He's blocking shots. He's rebounding the ball. He's passing the ball. He's starting our break. Him and Dame (Lillard), their two-man game has been fantastic. He's just doing a lot of stuff for us, and he's doing it in the flow. It doesn't look forced."

TMS reels 2nd win in v-ball

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tanapag Middle School Tatagas reeled in their second win in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League 2024-2025 last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Tatagas wrangled with the Saipan International School Lady Geckos and won in two easy sets.

TMS' rotation of Ziella Sablan, Jonielle Sablan, Miku Sharry, Mia Rogopes, Kaleenamae Ada, Sheryl Vinuya, Aaleyah Fatialofa, Cheyenne Camacho, and Kayshlie Aguon quickly overpowered the Lady Geckos from the get go as they established an early lead with a series of well-placed serves and returns.

The Lady Geckos tried to fend them off with some impressive saves and serves of their own, but they were no match for the Tatagas, who dominated the first set, 21-12.

The second set was another walk in the park for the Tatagas, as the Lady Geckos struggled to respond and were unable to return the relentless attacks. In the end, the Tatagas wrapped up the match with a second set win, 21-10.

In other results that day, Dandan Middle School Tottots II won over Saipan International School II, 15-21, 21-14, 15-6; Francisco M. Sablan Middle School II beat Chacha Ocean View Middle School Lancherus II, 21-17, 21-17; and Hopwood Middle School Hilitais survived the Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles in three sets, 8-21, 21-15, 15-11.

In the varsity standings, Mount Carmel School Knights and the Tottots lead with three wins and no losses each; GCA and HMS are at two wins and one loss; FMS is at one win and two losses; TMS are at an even 1-1 record; COVMS are at three losses; and SIS are at two losses.

LEIGH GASES

Tanapag Middle School's Aaleyah Fatialofa goes for an overhead serve during one of their games in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League 2024-2025 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

BASA

From page 16

Just4Fun had a 7-0 lead at the end of the first inning. A three-run homer off the bat of Tony Salas kickstarted their hitting spree, followed by another three-run jack by Jonah Flores. Jordan Suel added another round-tripper before three outs were registered.

When it came to The Kliq's at-bat in the bottom of the first, they had some traffic on the bases but couldn't bring them home. The Kliq then saw some light in the second inning after they finally got on board with five runs, but they were still behind, 5-8.

From there, Just4Fun continued their mastery with the bat as they clobbered The Kliq's pitching staff with multiple homers.

Brian Camacho, Kodik Lifoifoi, Jay Kintol, Nate Camacho, Ben Jones, and Ze Lifoifoi turned the game into a home run derby with their impressive out-of-the-park swings. By the time the dust settled, they had surged ahead by 19 runs, securing a 31-12 victory.

Kintol, Just4Fun's manager, said after their championship win that it felt great to win after falling short to the Aimeliik Bat Boys last season. "We wanted to reflect on last year when we came up short, so this year, we kept it together. The boys were able to put some good hits together and were able to manufacture some runs and we held it for the first two games—which was what we needed," he said.

As for their opponent this time around, he said, "We already knew coming in that The Kliq was a good team—they can hit the ball. We just had to be ahead of them because when we do fall back, we've got to work twice as hard to come back and overcome that deficit."

With that, he said the strength of their team was their offense. "The boys were able to get some base hits together and when we had the opportunity, they were able to bring those runs in by hitting home runs and consistently doing that through the two games."

Their season overall was great, he said. "Every Sunday, we come out here and we want to thank our other halves, our family, and our fans most especially… it takes a lot of time and we're able to collectively do it throughout the season and as a reward, we're this year's champions."

As for the league, he said, "these guys are excellent. They're on top of things. They're always informative in regards to the games, they keep the playing field conditions good, to keep us safe and to let us enjoy the whole opportunity."

He ended by saying that they'll come back next season and hopefully defend their title.

Results of the individual awards will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

GREG

From page 16

to work with our national federation, Northern Marianas Athletics to ensure masters are given an opportunity to compete during hosted events."

He said he is looking forward to working with commission members "to implement the strategic plan set forth by the Oceania Athletics Association, including encouraging masters-aged persons to be involved in health and well-being programs."

As to what his motivations are for doing what he does in the sport and community are three things—to stay active, serve as a role model for those who want to get into sports, and help provide opportunities for others who wish to compete.

He then thanked his family for their encouragement. "I would like to thank the Northern Marianas Athletics for providing the opportunity for me to compete. Athletics is a sport that almost anyone at any age can participate in. I would also like to thank the NMA athletes and volunteers for their support and camaraderie in growing our sport."

The 50-year-old competed in track and field while growing up in California and began participating in masters competitions in the CNMI in 2021. He competed again in the 2023 Oceania Masters Championships held on Saipan, and won gold in the 60m and long jump, and silver in the shot put.

He is also the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc and chairman of the CNMI Public School System Board of Education.

KEAN

From page 16

His former and future coach, Hiroyuki Kimura of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan, couldn't be happier about Pajarillaga's latest achievements.

"I'm very happy that Kean is progressing smoothly. He is still a freshman and a rookie who has only been in college swimming for three months. But he was selected for the Chicago trip and had great results. I'm so proud. We are really looking forward to seeing what Kean does in the future," he said.

Kimura said his former and future ward is also looking forward to donning the CNMI's colors once again in next year's Pacific Mini Games.

"He hopes to join the NMI team for the Mini Games next year. We can count some medals from Kean already!"

Pajarillaga's mother, Susan, meanwhile, said she's proud about her son's development in swimming for Macalester College.

"First, I thank God for His favor on Kean and helping him make his dream come true to swim in the collegiate level. I am very proud of my son and how hard he has worked for these accomplishments. Second, I am so happy that Kean is on a team that is breaking records for his school, and in all of his achievements. In his latest swim meet, he broke his personal record in almost all his events. GCA and NMI are always mentioned as the places where he began his journey. Finally, I thank coach Hiro and Yuko (Tsunami Saipan manager Yuko Kimura) for believing in him and being his coach and mentor since the beginning," she said.

Macalester College is a private liberal arts college in Saint Paul, Minnesota. It competes in the NCAA Division III Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and are known as the Scots.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	16	3	.842	–
New York	11	8	.579	5
Brooklyn	9	11	.450	7½
Toronto	5	15	.250	11½
Philadelphia	4	14	.222	11½
Southeast Division				
Orlando	14	7	.667	–
Miami	9	8	.529	3
Atlanta	10	11	.476	4
Charlotte	6	14	.300	7½
Washington	2	16	.111	10½
Central Division				
Cleveland	17	3	.850	–
Milwaukee	10	9	.526	6½
Indiana	9	11	.450	8
Detroit	9	13	.409	9
Chicago	8	13	.381	9½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Houston	14	6	.700	–
Memphis	13	7	.650	1
Dallas	12	8	.600	2
San Antonio	10	9	.526	3½
New Orleans	4	16	.200	10
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	15	4	.789	–
Denver	10	7	.588	4
Minnesota	9	10	.474	6
Portland	8	12	.400	7½
Utah	4	15	.211	11
Pacific Division				
Golden State	12	7	.632	–
Phoenix	11	8	.579	1
L.A. Lakers	11	8	.579	1
L.A. Clippers	12	9	.571	1
Sacramento	9	11	.450	3½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	9	2	0	.818	320	214
Miami	5	7	0	.417	232	266
N.Y. Jets	3	8	0	.273	204	242
New England	3	9	0	.250	197	282
South						
Houston	7	5	0	.583	285	268
Indianapolis	5	7	0	.417	242	274
Tennessee	3	8	0	.273	202	290
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	208	316
North						
Pittsburgh	8	3	0	.727	252	186
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	364	294
Cincinnati	4	7	0	.364	297	296
Cleveland	3	8	0	.273	186	267
West						
x-Kansas City	11	1	0	.917	289	235
L.A. Chargers	7	4	0	.636	243	175
Denver	7	5	0	.583	264	202
e-Las Vegas	2	10	0	.167	223	333
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Philadelphia	9	2	0	.818	296	199
Washington	7	5	0	.583	334	277
Dallas	5	7	0	.417	248	339
e-N.Y. Giants	2	10	0	.167	183	279
South						
Atlanta	6	5	0	.545	244	274
Tampa Bay	5	6	0	.455	309	273
New Orleans	4	7	0	.364	262	260
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	194	340
North						
Detroit	11	1	0	.917	383	203
Minnesota	9	2	0	.818	274	197
Green Bay	9	3	0	.750	318	240
Chicago	4	8	0	.333	241	240
West						
Arizona	6	5	0	.545	244	236
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	246	244
L.A. Rams	5	6	0	.455	233	276
San Francisco	5	6	0	.455	260	260

e-eliminated from playoffs | x-clinched playoff spot

Despite special teams blunders Seahawks manage a come-from-behind win over Jets

PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune
Sports

TMS reels 2nd win in v-ball

PAGE 15

Just4Fun celebrates BASA champs

LEIGH GASES

Champion Just4Fun poses with their trophy during a group photo in the awards ceremony of the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League last Saturday at the Dandan Softball Field.

LEIGH GASES

Runner-up The Kliq poses for a group photo during the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League last Saturday at the Dandan Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Just4Fun soared to the championship title like confetti bursting from a piñata, sweeping The Kliq in the best-of-three series of the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League last Saturday at the Dandan Softball Field.

They partied like a rockstar after they won Game 2 in a blowout 31-12 game which clinched their championship. In Game 1, they won in another blowout, 22-6.

Game 2 started off with a bang as Just4Fun's offense rode on their momentum from the first game. Quickly,

See BASA on Page 15

Greg Borja appointed to OAA Masters Athletes Commission

LEIGH GASES

Northern Marianas Athletics technical official Greg Borja was appointed to the Oceania Athletics Association Masters Athletes Commission last week.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics technical official Greg Borja was appointed to the Oceania Athletics Association Masters Athletes Commission last week.

The commission is now made up of five members including himself—with two members from Australia, one from New Zealand, and one from Norfolk Island.

This appointment, he said, is meaningful to him as he "will have a voice for masters aged (30-90+ year old) athletes not only here in the Northern Mariana Islands, but also across Micronesia. Additionally, I would like

See GREG on Page 15

Kean, teammates break 2 school relay record

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kean Pajarillaga, second from left, and his teammates reset Macalester College's 400- and 200-yard medley relay records last Nov. 22 and 23 at the Phoenix Fall Classic at the University of Chicago.

Kean Pajarillaga and his teammates broke the Macalester College 400- and 200-yard medley relay records last Nov. 22 and 23 at the Phoenix Fall Classic at the University of Chicago.

The Grace Christian Academy graduate and teammates Thomas Moore, Charles Batsaikhan, and Max Taufen finished 15th in the 400-yard medley relay in the first day of the meet with a time of 3:26.96. More importantly, the time broke the old school record of 3:29.44 set last year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Macalester College's Kean Pajarillaga swims the backstroke during this file photo.

The next day on Saturday, Pajarillaga, Batsaikhan, Moore, and senior Isaac Kisker broke the school record in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1:35.29. The old mark of 1:36.06 was set in 2023.

"I am happy about my achievement. I will dedicate this to my family, my coach both in college and Saipan, and all of my friends that support me. My freshmen year of college is good and swimming at this level is somewhat challenging, different, and fun," Pajarillaga told *Saipan Tribune*.

See KEAN on Page 15